JORDAN HENDERSON EXCLUSIVE • VIRGIL • MADRID REMEMBERED • RETRO REDS • MICHAEL ROBINSON

LIVERPOOL FC





liverpoolfc.com

Official Liverpool FC Monthly Magazine





GOOD TO BE BACK

THE REDS RETURN TO ACTION ON A MISSION FOR THE FANS!



TAKE A FRONT ROW SEAT TO HEAR PAISLEY'S WORDS OF WISDOM

Listen to Bob Paisley

Discover the Legends from the Golden Era

Take a quiz and test your knowledge

Read past headlines and stories

#StandRed and sit in the legendary Anfield Boot Room with Standard Chartered and Augmented Reality technology.

Download the FREE Stand Red app today.



Contents

Reach Sport
Editor David Cottrell Assistant Editor William Hughes Writer Chris McLoughlin Production Editor Michael McGuinness Design Colin Sumpter
Contributors Dave Ball, Ged Rea Photography Getty Images, Press Association, Mirrorpix, Liverpool Echo, John Powell, Andrew Powell, Nicholas Taylor © Liverpool Football Club & Athletic Grounds Ltd. Published by Reach Sport Managing Director Steve Hanrahan
Commercial Director Will Beedles Executive Art Editor Rick Cooke Executive Editor Paul Dove Marketing & Communications Manager Claire Brown
Printed by William Gibbons Email liverpoolfcmag@reachsport.com. To subscribe visit www.reachsportshop.com




JK
L.F.C.
AXA

"WE'LL BE CREATIVE"

"We prepare for the future" is Jürgen Klopp's message as his Reds squad aim to end an unprecedented season – in so many ways – with a flourish. In these challenging times the manager's positivity has shone through, invigorating a group of exceptional players on the verge of greatness and a fanbase yearning to see their heroes back in action. Regarding the training sessions that have had to improvised, the boss continues: "I don't think anybody ever wrote a football book and thought about a pandemic in that moment and said, 'Okay, it is not allowed to be closer to each other than two metres'. That is not there, so we have to be creative and we will."











BACK IN THE GROOVE

The sun came out to play when the players returned to training at Melwood in May. The squad scrupulously observed protocol, with sessions in small groups and social distancing maintained. Defender Dejan Lovren commented: "Our focus has always been: let's finish the season [and] be in shape when we come back. It's about togetherness and we did it. Everyone has respected all the planning and programmes that we got – and this is what's important for this team." Team-mate Andy Robertson added: "Melwood is kind of your home from home, you spend so much time here, and we missed the place like mad. We wanted to get back on the pitch and play football, and luckily that's been able to happen."


Can
NIVEA




AXA Know You Can
WesternUnion WU
new balance
Standard Chartered



On Monday 1 June the whole LFC first-team squad paused training to 'take the knee' in Anfield's centre-circle in a show of solidarity for the Black Lives Matter movement. The players then took to their social-media accounts to post the image with the caption: 'Unity is strength. #BlackLivesMatter'.



"WE ARE VERY CLOSE AND – IT SHOWS AT A TIME LIKE

Reds skipper Jordan Henderson talks exclusively about the last three months, the return to training and the bond that has kept players and supporters in touch

WE ARE TOGETHER THIS"



Interview: Chris McLoughlin

"I don't like heights," laughs Jordan Henderson as he ponders the suggestion. "So I'm not sure a hot air balloon would be a great idea for me!"

It's a Wednesday afternoon, shortly after a Melwood training session has finished, and we're chatting on the phone. Face-to-face interviews are not yet part of the new normal, but asking the Reds captain about flying over Liverpool city-centre in a hot-air balloon now is. Surreal times lead to surreal scenarios.

There is, of course, still a job to be done, but when the Premier League season resumes the Reds will do so with a 25-point head start over nearest rivals Manchester City. With just nine games left to play, Henderson hasn't got his hands on the trophy yet, but he can almost hear the red-and-white ribbons rustling in the breeze.

But what happens next? Social distancing means stadiums are closed indefinitely and supporters can't congregate to celebrate anywhere, meaning any plans to show off the silverware the Reds have won in 2019/20 – with the UEFA Super Cup and FIFA World Club Cup already on Melwood's Champions Wall – must be postponed.

The lack of any potential parade should the Reds clinch the title led to some radical alternatives being suggested on social media, including Henderson being sent up above the city in a hot air balloon holding the Premier League trophy aloft so everyone can see it.

Suggesting such a crazy prospect makes Henderson laugh, but he wont be getting carried away in the basket of a hot air balloon – or about Liverpool's current league position, either.

"I don't want to look too far forward in terms of things like that. We are still very focused and very determined. There's still a lot of work to do and a job to be done. Although we're in a very good position, I still feel that we have got to perform at a high level and finish the season off well.

"We need to do what we've been doing for a long period of time and that's give everything in every single game. If we do that then I'm sure we'll be able to get over the line. So it's just focusing on the each game, whenever they come along, and the closer we get to the first game behind closed doors, the more the focus will be on getting sharper.

"We need to be prepared. We need to be raring to go and not get caught cold coming out of the blocks."

Liverpool's last Premier League game, a 2-1 Anfield win against Bournemouth, feels like an age ago rather than March. Like so many others Henderson spent the Covid19 lockdown with his family and that meant the father-of-two young daughters had to get involved with home schooling.

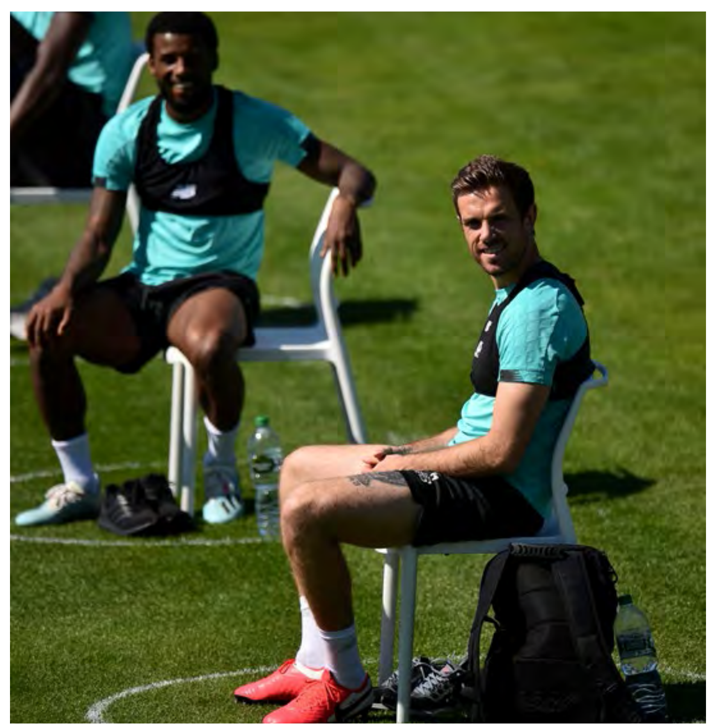
"I've just tried to make the most of lockdown," he says. "I've spent time with the family, time that I don't normally get, and done little bits of home schooling and stuff – things I wouldn't normally get to do.



THE FITNESS TEAMS DID AN AMAZING JOB WITH US DURING LOCKDOWN AND IT SHOWED BACK AT TRAINING







"To be honest, they've been teaching me! I've been learning as I go along, but it's been really good to interact with them and help them with things such as schoolwork. That's been a positive for me during this tough period.

"Of course there have been times when it can be difficult, but overall I've tried to be positive and enjoyed the time I've had at home with my family."

Naturally, keeping as fit as he possibly could at home has also been something to focus upon. There's a difference between doing a core workout on Zoom and trying to press Sadio Mane, Bobby Firmino or Mo Salah in training, but Henderson and his team-mates did their homework.

"It's a little bit different in terms of the fitness because of what you can and can't do. In terms of overall general fitness it hasn't been an issue. Obviously with running, we were able to go out and the club gave us stuff to do at home in term of gym work. So we could still do quite a bit and we could still keep a good, fierce level of fitness.

"No-one was sure when we'd return to training or when we'd return to playing, so we had to try to adapt as best we could. But the fitness staff and the fitness teams did an amazing job in giving us things to do at home and keeping us ticking over.

"So, when we came back to training at Melwood it wasn't like we'd been off doing nothing. We'd been doing stuff at home and returned at a pretty decent level. Since we've come back in, that has really showed.

"Fitness levels have been really good, but now it's about getting sharpness with things like shooting and playing long balls. You've got to get your legs used to that again, which hopefully shouldn't take too long."



With over 3.6m following Henderson's Instagram account, you may well be one yourself. If so, you probably saw the Instagram Story live the Liverpool captain streamed of himself and cycling legend Mark Cavendish MBE training on exercise bikes.

The pair chatted as Cavendish put Hendo through his paces on a series of uphill interval sprints, which is no easy task when you're trying to keep up with one of the greatest road sprinters of all times. Was it as hard work as it looked?

"Hard work?" he replies. "Just a bit! He's a machine, a different animal. On most days he's on the bike for five or six hours, so I think my session with him was like a warm-up for the day.

"I found it pretty tough, but it was good. I enjoyed it and Mark is a great lad. It was good to chat to him and he was giving us a few tips on how to ride the bike properly, like how to use the gears when going uphill and downhill, little things like that.

"I've never been on a training bike like that before in terms of a road bike with gears, so it was good to get his advice and I've been on there with him a few times since, although not on social media. If I'm on there I'll give him a text to see if he's on and have a bit of craic with him, so that's been good as well."

There was also plenty of banter among Jürgen Klopp's squad during their enforced absence from Melwood. The players used both video and messaging apps to stay close and Henderson believes unity is strength when it comes to this particular group of Liverpool players.

"Yeah, I think it was really important to all stay in touch. We did a lot of stuff on Zoom – yoga sessions and core sessions – and it was good to see everybody again, have a little bit of banter and ask how everyone is doing.

"We had big group chats as well on a regular basis, so just keeping the interaction going and making sure everybody was dealing with the situation the best they can was important.

"If anybody had any issues then there were plenty of people around to help and that's one of the great things about this team and this squad: we are very close and we are together. It shows at a time like this."



Not only are they close, they're also a squad that is very socially aware of the bigger picture. There's no escaping the reality that, like other groups in society, Liverpool supporters have lost their lives to Covid19. So many families from so many walks of life have been affected.

At the same time Liverpool players have the power to put smiles on the faces of Liverpool supporters in a way that nobody else can. Usually that's through scoring a goal, saving a penalty, winning a game or lifting a trophy. But at a time when football couldn't be played, many of Klopp's men used their social-media accounts to give us all a much-needed distraction away from more serious matters.

From Alisson throwing a ball through a skylight window on his roof to Andy Robertson digging up his garden, Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain dancing with his pop-star missus and James Milner cutting blades of grass to make them all the same length, there's been plenty so see. So I ask Henderson if he and his team-mates felt conscious that they could give Kopites something to smile about through social media during these troubled times?

"In a difficult time you've got to find a good balance. You want to do stuff on social media to make sure you're still interacting with the fans, but at the same time you need to be aware of what's going on.

"Even now, people are still dying. So you need to be aware of that and be sensitive to it, but on the other hand you need to deal with the situation you're in the best way you can. Sometimes that can be through laughter and making things light-hearted.

"You mentioned Millie and he's done a lot of stuff that has helped on that side of things. So it's about coping in that way, but I think the club has been brilliant in terms of helping the players to interact with the supporters so Liverpool fans could see what was still going on behind the scenes. I think that's been a positive thing."

Seeing the Redmen back on a football pitch will also put smiles on Liverpudlians' faces and the players are as excited as anyone about returning to action, although Henderson says that things feel different returning to Melwood compared to if it was for pre-season training.

"It's very nice to be back on a football pitch. It's been great to get back to Melwood. Being stuck in the house for a long time makes you appreciate it a lot more and puts things into perspective.

"Just to go in and see the lads, and get back playing football, has definitely been a big thing for me mentally. We're just doing what we love again and trying to enjoy it as much as we can.

"It's been different to pre-season, especially with everything that's going on and the new measures that have been put in place at the training ground to make sure it's a safe environment. So it is different, but we've still done a lot in the sessions that have been put on by the manager and the coaching staff, who have all been brilliant.

"Initially we had to adapt to the new situation with only being allowed to train in four or five small groups, but those sessions were really, really good – really, really enjoyable. There was good intensity and we got quite a lot out of it, actually.

"When the go-ahead was given for us to all train together, the training got more intense and more demanding before we got back to contact training, which was good."

Another big difference still to come will be playing top-flight football behind closed doors, something that has never happened before during Liverpool FC's history.



IT'S VERY NICE TO BE BACK ON A FOOTBALL PITCH. IT'S BEEN GREAT TO GET BACK TO TRAINING. BEING STUCK IN THE HOUSE FOR A LONG TIME MAKES YOU APPRECIATE IT A LOT MORE AND PUTS THINGS INTO PERSPECTIVE

Two years ago Henderson and Dejan Lovren both played in a game with no supporters in the ground when England travelled to Croatia for a UEFA Nations League game in Rijeka. Fans were banned from attending due to sanctions imposed on the hosts and it made for an eerie backdrop to the game.

"It is different, and it is strange, but at times like this you've got to try to adapt," says Henderson. "You've got to try to do the best you can, go out there and enjoy playing football.

"When you were little and you used to play for your school there was no crowd watching then really, so you've just got to enjoy your football and appreciate that we are able to go back doing what we love doing.

"We've got to embrace that and make the best out of the situation that we can. Obviously it will be good for the fans to have some football on the telly to watch, but of course they'll want to get back into the stadium as soon as possible themselves.

"Hopefully it will be sooner rather than later, but when it's safe to return we all know they'll be desperate to be back at Anfield. But, for the time being, I think just to have some Premier League football on the telly will help them also."

Germany's Bundesliga was the first major European league to resume with games played inside empty stadiums. Any fears that such a setting would make a league encounter feel like a training match were dispelled on the reopening weekend and anyone who watched Bayern Munich's title-race defining 1-0 win at Borussia Dortmund will tell you that both the intensity and quality on show remained sky-high. Henderson believes we'll see that replicated when the Premier League resumes.

"The intensity can still be at a high level. If you have the right mindset the intensity can be as high as you want it to be. In that sense, when we do return, I expect the intensity to be high and the football enjoyable to watch.

"I've seen from watching the Bundesliga games in Germany that they've had some sort of atmosphere for people watching at home on some channels, so I think that will help the experience of watching a game with no crowd.

"For the players it will be different playing in a big game in a stadium where there's no crowd because you can hear everybody talking. Again, we've got to adapt to that situation and try to keep the swearing down to a minimum!"

He laughs, as during that Croatia v England game Henderson was overheard on TV asking Croatian boss Zlatko Dalic "Are you the ******* ref?" after the manager appealed for a handball against him. So, is being able to hear everything Klopp says to his players during a game with no supporters present something he's looking forward to or not?



"I'm more worried about my language when I'm playing!" he laughs. "I don't want to be having to apologise to everybody after every single game so I need to be careful, especially in the heat of the game.

"I'm sure the manager will have to be careful with his language as well! But he'll also know we can't blame the crowd for not being able to hear what he's saying at certain times of the game."

Which brings us back around to how it will feel to lift the Premier League trophy inside an empty stadium if, as seems likely, that particular honour is achieved and a presentation takes place.

"If we do manage to do our job properly and we do manage to get over the line and win the league then that would be amazing. As for what happens after that, we'll need to cross that bridge if and when we come to it.

"I'm sure Liverpool fans are desperate for us to get back playing and we as players can't wait to get back playing and finish the job off as best as we can. Although it will be strange to have no fans, winning the Premier League would still be something that we've all dreamed of and something that we all want really badly. It won't take anything away from that."





The LFC first-team squad has stayed connected over the last few weeks – and James Milner has even found time for one of his favourite books

Words: Chris McLoughlin

HAIR-RAISING YOGA

Before the Reds returned to training at Melwood, the first-team squad and staff did a weekly yoga session on the video-sharing app Zoom.

Led by yoga instructor Dianne Atherton but overseen by Jürgen Klopp, there was plenty of banter before each session, which was recorded and released on LFC's social-media channels as part of the national #StayAtHome campaign. With hairdressers in lockdown, much of it focused around the state of the players' haircuts.

From Klopp advising Pedro Chirivella to tie his hair back like Virgil van Dijk to Joel Matip copping stick every week for needing a trim, there was plenty of light-hearted flak flying about with Andy Robertson on the end of some of the best of it.

"Robbo, you look a mess bro!" points out Van Dijk before one session. "I know you miss me, but look after yourself a little bit mate, you look a mess!" "Miss you brother, miss you," laughs Robbo, but he's cut off by the Liverpool manager. "It's true!" laughs Klopp, to the amusement of his players.

"A little product in your hair, bro?" continues Virgil. "Nah, no chance mate," smiles Robbo, brushing his hair to one side, but the big man isn't finished there. "You just jump out of bed, open the laptop and then...[Virgil rolls across his floor]...good morning!"

Luckily for Robbo (who later tweeted: "Roll out of bed to some abuse, wouldn't change it for the world") the arrival of Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain on screen shifts the attention away.

"He's had a trim!" declares Jordan Henderson. "It didn't go well, I'll tell you that now!" admits Ox as Joe Gomez puffs out his cheeks and Klopp goes into one of his famous laughs as the midfielder turns side-on. But that's whole story in itself...

HENDO'S ON HIS BIKE

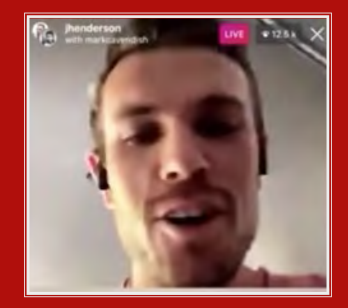
Keeping fit can be tricky during a lockdown. Gyms are closed, you can't play sports with friends and even exercising outside was initially limited to an hour whether you were walking, running or cycling.

For Liverpool FC's players, maintaining a high level of fitness is a key part of the job. In addition to some online group sessions, every player had offline individual fitness programmes to follow during the two months that Melwood was closed, but staying focused isn't always easy.

"When we're training we do love it as well," admitted Jordan Henderson. "Times like this is probably the most difficult. You're doing it on your own and don't know when you're going to be able to go back and that. It's probably the most challenging time.

"We're trying to keep as fit as we can. It's not the same – but we're trying to do as much as we can so we've still got a fierce level and there's less chance of injury."

The Liverpool skipper was speaking to cycling legend Mark Cavendish on Instagram Stories Live. Born on the Isle of Man and nicknamed 'the Manx Flyer,' Cavendish has won so many cycling honours that it necessitates a separate Wikipedia page to his own.





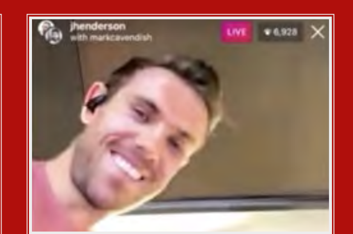
He cycles for up to four hours a day at home during lockdown and had joined Hendo to put him through his paces through a series of uphill interval sprints on an exercise bike.

Some of Jordan's facial expressions proved just how rigorous a workout it was, but the highlight came about 30 minutes in when Cavendish asked the Champions League winning Reds captain if he felt warmed-up? "Am I warmed-up?" Hendo replied, sounding aghast. "My quads are on fire, man!"

Might be best to stick to the red jersey rather than go for the yellow one, Jordan!









LOXDOWN

While Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain has been unable to play football in front of crowds, the Liverpool midfielder's girlfriend Perrie Edwards has also been unable to sing in front of them with Little Mix. So she turned her hand to hairdressing instead.

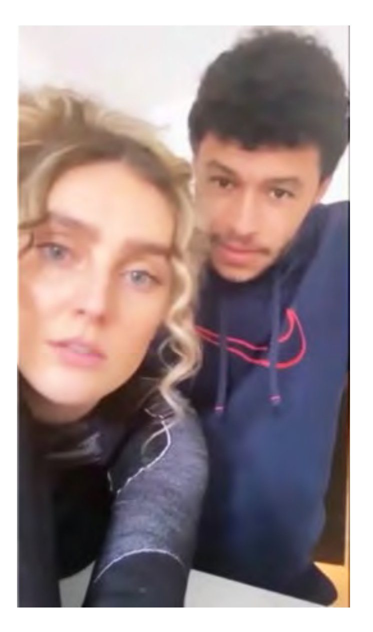
Using the @supremenutrition account on Instagram Stories during a 'takeover' day, and with a pack of pet pooches for an at-home audience, she asked followers in a poll if she should cut Alex's hair? Unsurprisingly, 'YEA HUN DO IT' was more popular than 'DEFO NOT'. The Ox was about to lose his locks.

Initially the England international midfielder tried to cut it himself, grabbing an electric razor and getting to work on what he called a "flourishing afro." But after cutting his right sideburn down to the skin – described by Perrie as a "diabolical trim" – he video-called barber Justin Carr (@Justscuts) for advice. The barber advised letting Perrie swap a microphone for clippers.

"Hold your head still, big man," is a shout the Ox doesn't usually get from the touchline. But when it came from his barber and girlfriend he moved less than the Genk goalkeeper when Ox fired two shots past him during the 4-1 Champions League win in Belgium in October.

"I never want to cut hair again, never ever again," concluded Perrie after leaving Oxlade-Chamberlain with what can be best described as a mohawk. After getting stick from his team-mates the next day on Zoom, it seems unlikely that he'll let her!











BOBBY'S NEW GOALIE

If we told you Roberto Firmino had been practising his trademark no-look finishes by slotting four goals past a Brazilian goalkeeper, you'd assume he'd been trying them against Alisson at Melwood, right? You'd be bang wrong.

Lockdown meant that both Liverpool FC's training ground and team-mates were out-of-bounds for Bobby, so to stay sharp he put a set of goalposts in the garden, lined up four balls and put his wife Larissa in goal!

Could Mrs F fare better than several professional goalkeepers by preventing her husband from finding the net without looking at the ball when he struck it?

Er, no. She wasn't even close. But then goalies who have played against Bobby for Sevilla, Swansea, West Ham and Arsenal already know how she feels...

VIDEO KILLS THE LIVERPOOL STAR!

James Milner has been the king of lockdown on social media. From cutting his lawn with scissors and washing stones in his garden to picking his sitcom GOAT list for LFCTV with Andy Robertson (and if you've not seen Robbo dance like an Inbetweener you've missed out!), the Liverpool FC skipper has kept everyone entertained during lockdown.

Like everyone else, he's also had to get used to making video-calls to stay in touch with family, friends and colleagues but doesn't always enjoy it. So Millie told LFCTV the five things he hates about video calls the most.

"Number one is people being able to see the state of your hair. Mine is probably currently at its longest it's ever been in my life. Do I wait and hope for the best? Or do I have a got at it and risk that it looks like I've cut it with a knife and fork? I can't pull off 'the Alisson Becker' for sure if I leave it, so it's a dilemma."





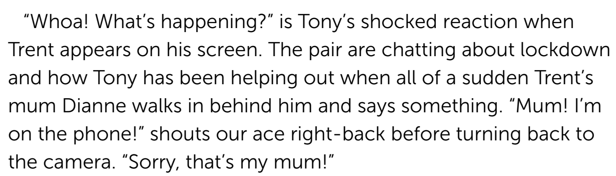


"MUM – I'M ON THE PHONE!"

We've all been there. You're on a call or video chat when your blissfully unaware mother walks in and interrupts the conversation, probably to tell you Mrs Jones from next door wasn't social distancing down the Asda, or the dog needs walking.

But when you're a professional footballer playing for Liverpool FC, and your mum walks in on your on-screen chat with a Kopite who's been volunteering to help the local community during a global pandemic, then your video goes viral on social media. Especially when your mum joins in the conversation!

Liverpool-based taxi driver Tony Cavener, in association with the Spirit of Shankly supporters union, has been delivering food parcels to vulnerable residents during lockdown despite being at higher risk to Covid19 due to asthma. So to thank him for his selfless efforts, SPORTbible asked fellow Scouser Trent Alexander-Arnold to give him a surprise call.



"Whoa! What's happening?" is Tony's shocked reaction when Trent appears on his screen. The pair are chatting about lockdown and how Tony has been helping out when all of a sudden Trent's mum Dianne walks in behind him and says something. "Mum! I'm on the phone!" shouts our ace right-back before turning back to the camera. "Sorry, that's my mum!"

"Is right!" laughs Tony, before Trent tells his ma about how the lifelong Red has been going the extra mile despite being asthmatic. "Hiya love, are you okay?" chips in Tony. "Well done Tony, well done," she replies. "Aw thank you my love," smiles Tony, "and thank you for Trent as well. We owe it all to you!"

There's nothing Trent can do but laugh and within less than 24 hours the video had over 500,000 views, brilliantly highlighting how even a Red at risk will do what he can to help those who need it.



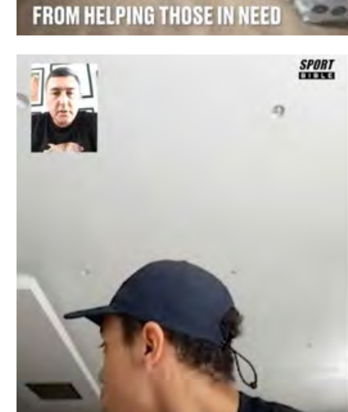


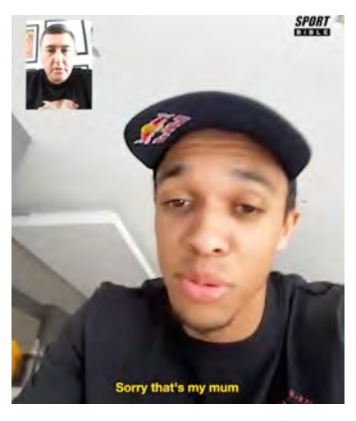










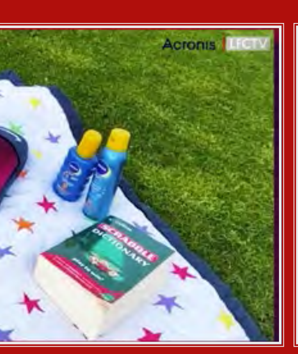


Using Google Translate to try to understand Robbo. Calling someone back late and telling them you've been dead busy but forgetting what's in the background – like your sunbathing towel and a "good book" (in Millie's case a Scrabble Dictionary). People putting their phones to their ear to hear better while on video-chat. They also made Milner's top five, as did something that sounds particularly perilous...

"You're on a team video call with the boys, you've done yoga and the boys are still on. You think you've stopped the video part of the call momentarily while you take the mickey out of Virgil's stiffness in his yoga poses.

"You're showing the missus and taking the mick out of the big man, only to realise you actually haven't stopped the video. The big man can see you...and he's going to give you a damn good hiding the next time he sees you!"

Don't try this at home, folks!











MADRID

ONE YEAR ON

Ten of the best images from the 2019 Champions League triumph

ALL ROUND TO JAMIE'S

"What were you doing during the day on Saturday 1 June 2019," the grandkids might possibly ask. "Bouncing up and down in Plaza Felipe II with thousands of other Reds," you may well reply, "singing along to Jamie Webster." The club collaborated with the team behind Liverpool's legendary BOSS Nights to put on one unforgettable pre-final show.



THE RED END

Hands up if you're nervous just looking at these pictures again? The teams are out, the tingles are running up and down the spine , the Liverpool hordes are in full voice, and the 2019 UEFA Champions League final between the Mighty Reds and Tottenham Hotspur is about to kick off. All those brilliant flags and banners – some familiar from the Spion Kop, some brand new – made it feel just like Anfield South.

READY, STEADY...MO

On the subject of this-time-last-year, imagine what was going through Mo Salah's mind as he prepared to take that penalty seconds into proceedings. In Kiev on 26 May 2018 he'd been an injured onlooker for 60 minutes. Here was a chance for personal redemption and he wasn't going to pass it up, smashing his spot-kick past Spurs keeper Hugo Lloris to put Liverpool into an early lead.




AIA
Standard
Chartered
11



BRAZILIANT BECKER

Spurs had to go for it as the clock ticked down and who can forget how assuredly Alisson dealt with their attempts on goal: the calm catch from Dele Alli's dangerous chip; the double-save from Heung-Min Son and Lucas Moura; and getting both gloves on a Christian Eriksen free-kick from the edge of the area to palm it away.


AIA
AIA
15
2



THE LEGEND OF DIVOCK

'Couldn't get it out of his feet' is a common commentating lament when a striker fluffs his lines in front of goal. Call this up again and look at how Divock Origi makes this goal happen: reacting instinctively to team-mate Matip's deft flick by killing the ball on his right foot, opening up his body and firing across Lloris to find the corner of the net.


UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGU



WE'VE DONE IT!

Journey's end: all this way, all those games, all that investment – physically, emotionally and (for the fans!) financially. It felt right for the players to race over to the massed Liverpool supporters after the final whistle, the expressions on the faces of Virgil, Gini, Robbo, Bobby and co saying it all.



“HUGE SURPRISE, I WAS BLOWN AWAY!”

Tom Green, Reading

Fantastic prizes up for grabs

Sign up now for FREE

LIVERPOOLFC.COM/COMPETITIONS

WE ARE LIVERPOOL. THIS MEANS MORE.

ANY CHANCE OF A LIFT?

You've got to get this bit right – it's going to be captured forever – and boy, did Jordan Henderson duly oblige. The crouch, shimmy, the turn, the triumphant raise. "The best moment of my life," said the skipper, "what I dreamed about since I was a kid." As luck would have it, we've seen him throw the same silver-lined shapes a few more times since.





LOOK WHAT I'VE GOT!

Everyone had played their part and all the players got their go at raising 'Old Big Ears' aloft in front of the jubliant Liverpool fans. Midfielder Gini Wijnaldum, one of the most popular members of the first-team squad, may have left the field on the hour-mark to be replaced by James Milner, but without his stunning two-goal salvo in the semi-final against Barcelona, we wouldn't even have been here.


L.F.C.
10
24



YOURS TRULY

The Spurs supporters had played their part but this was Liverpool's moment, and the players and coaching staff lined up – as they'd done after Barcelona – to savour the moment in front of the faithful. Trent Alexander-Arnold: "When we look back we are not going to think it was a sluggish game, we are going to think we have just won the European Cup. And we have just done it for all these fans."


UEFA
UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE



NO PLACE LIKE HOME

There were those who thought nothing would ever top the scenes when the Reds returned from Istanbul with the trophy in 2005, but this was right up there with it. A ten-mile, four-hour open-top bus route took the homecoming heroes to Liverpool city-centre with the turnout estimated at three-quarters-of-a-million. Sensational.



KLOPP THIS

No excuses – you've had plenty of time to swot up for a stunningly difficult quiz about our beloved leader. Right?



A, B OR C

1 As of the Champions League game against Atletico Madrid, for how many fixtures has Jürgen Klopp taken charge of Liverpool?
(a) 226 (b) 246 (c) 256

2 And in that period how many goals have Liverpool scored?
(a) 427 (b) 527 (c) 627

3 What is Klopp's win percentage in Premier League matches?
(a) 61 (b) 63 (c) 65

4 Liverpool recorded 50 wins in European competition under the manager earlier this season against which team?
(a) Napoli (b) Genk or (c) Salzburg

5 How many players has Klopp signed for Liverpool? **a) 18 b) 23 or c) 28?**



INS AND OUTS

6 Who was the manager's first signing for the Reds?

7 In the Klopp era which two goalkeepers joined on free transfers but never played a first-team game (to date)?

8 And who is the only outfield player to join on a free deal under the manager?

9 Name the two men the boss has signed from Southampton?

10 Who is the only player to join Liverpool on loan during Klopp's spell as manager?



BEFORE ANFIELD

11 In which German city was Jürgen born?

12 The boss has a degree in which subject?

13 And in which city did he study for that qualification?

14 With which team did he start his managerial career?

15 How many Bundesliga titles did he win with Borussia Dortmund?

THE LFC ERA

16 **Against which team did Klopp first manage the Reds?**

17 **And against which side did he first manage a Liverpool team to victory?**

18 **Who scored the first Liverpool goal of the Klopp era?**

19 **In April 2016 the boss said his players should not touch the This Is Anfield sign in the tunnel until what happened?**

20 **The day after the Reds knocked Manchester United out of that season's Europa League, the manager attended his pre-match press conference for the Premier League game at Southampton wearing a t-shirt dedicated to which band?**



BOSS QUIZ



SEASON 2016/17

21 True or false: during Klopp's first 12 months at Anfield the Reds converted all nine of the penalties they were awarded?

22 Who scored the first goal in front of the newly-expanded Main Stand at Anfield in September 2016?

23 Who scored twice to help Crystal Palace become the second of only two visiting teams to win at Anfield in the Premier League?

24 Which player made the most Premier League appearances for Liverpool, featuring in 37 of the 38 games?

25 Who top-scored for the Reds with 14 goals in all competitions?

SEASON 2017/18

26 Who joined Jürgen's Reds from Arsenal on August transfer deadline day?

27 Philippe Coutinho moved to Barcelona for a new club-record fee in January 2018. Was it… (a) £140 million (b) £142 million (c) £145 million

28 Klopp's men registered a treble of 5-0 wins in 2017/18 – against which three opponents?

29 How many goals in total did Mohamed Salah score during his first season for the Reds?

30 Which man added his name to the following list: McDermott, Smith, Neal, Dalglish, Kennedy, Neal, Gerrard, Smicer, Alonso, Kuyt…?



SEASON 2018/19

31 Naby Keita and Fabinho officially moved to Liverpool on 1 July 2018, but from which clubs did they sign?

32 Who kept clean-sheets on his first three Premier League starts for the club?

33 Which two outfield players figured in all 38 Premier League games in 2018/19?

34 In the Champions League semi-final second leg against Barcelona who scored twice and who provided two assists in the 4-0 comeback victory?

35 And who gave the assist for Divock Origi's goal which clinched the 2-0 win over Tottenham in the final in Madrid?

SEASON 2019/20

36 In which city did the Reds win the UEFA Super Cup?

37 The manager gave which player his debut in the dramatic 5-5 draw with Arsenal in the Carabao Cup?

38 Who took charge of the team in Klopp's absence for the Carabao Cup fifth-round tie at Aston Villa and later in the FA Cup fourth-round replay at home to Shrewsbury Town?

39 The boss has won a record number of Premier League manager of the month awards this season – how many?

40 Klopp's men set a new English top-flight record of consecutive home wins by coming from behind to beat Bournemouth at Anfield in early March – how many?

WHO SAID IT?

41 “I had coffee with him and when I came out of the room I just felt happy. I felt taller. And I am not one of the players, so I can only imagine what he has done to those players in the dressing-room.” (Clue: club legend)

42 “I never tire of praising Klopp. He has so many good characteristics on and off the pitch. He really helps us on a daily basis and we learn so much from him in every way. He is a fantastic coach for us.” (Clue: something that the Kop wants you to know)

43 “He’s a manager who’s got great experience and is a lovely person, someone who the players and the fans will enjoy. Hopefully he can be successful and do well!” (Clue: fellow Champions League winner)

44 “He is the leader and the thinker of our team. He is not about being a coach, he is about a way of understanding life in a certain way. The team and him are one, so we play with 12. There is a saying that nobody will know how much you know, until they know how much you care. For me that’s why the players are who they are.” (Clue: member of the backroom team)

45 “Every coach I worked with was different and had his own way. He is different. He has been helpful from day one and helps me quite a lot outside the club too.” (Clue: running down the wing)

JÜRGEN’S MISSING WORDS

46. **“The good thing is when you are a _____ manager in a club, you can make different steps and you can always learn from the last season and that’s what we always did.”**

47. **“After the Champions League finals, after the first one, after the second one, we said: this is not the final _____ for this team, there are a lot more to _____.”**

48. **“You know, when people talk about _____ _____, it’s not true that he was a human being! He built that club from the ground and that’s an achievement. The club has now reached a size and a status where things like that will never happen again – but without him this club wouldn’t be the same.”**





BOSS QUIZ

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE #1





49. "Now we won something [the Champions League] and we will carry on. We want to win things, 100 per cent. I've said it, this is only the ____ for this group. It's still a wonderful age-group, they all have the best times in their careers ahead of them."

50. "I've always said football is the most important of the _____ _____ things."

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE #2





ANSWERS

A, B OR C
1. (c) 256; 2. (b) 527; 3. (c) 65; 4. (c) Salzburg; 5. (b) 23.

INS AND OUTS
6. Marko Grujic; 7. Alex Manninger and Andy Lonergan; 8. Joel Matip; 9. Sadio Mane and Virgil van Dijk; 10. Steven Caulker.

BEFORE ANFIELD
11. Stuttgart; 12. Sports science; 13. Frankfurt; 14. Mainz 05; 15. Two.

WHEN IT ALL BEGAN
16. Tottenham Hotspur; 17. Bournemouth; 18. Emre Can (v Rubin Kazan); 19. They won something – "it's a sign of respect"; 20. The Beatles.

SEASON 2016/17
21. True; 22. Roberto Firmino; 23. Christian Benteke; 24. Nathaniel Clyne; 25. Philippe Coutinho.

SEASON 2017/18
26. Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain; 27. (b) £142 million; 28. Swansea City, FC Porto and Watford; 29. 44; 30. Sadio Mane (European Cup/Champions League final scorers for LFC).

SEASON 2018/19
31. RB Leipzig (Keita) and Monaco (Fabinho); 32. Alisson Becker; 33. Mohamed Salah and Virgil van Dijk; 34. Gini Wijnaldum scored twice and Trent Alexander-Arnold provided two assists; 35. Joel Matip.

SEASON 2019/20
36. Istanbul; 37. Neco Williams; 38 Neil Critchley; 39. Five; 40. 22.

WHO SAID IT?
41. Steven Gerrard; 42. Roberto Firmino; 43. Rafael Benitez; 44. Pep Lijnders; 45. Mohamed Salah.

JÜRGEN'S MISSING WORDS
46. "long-term"; 47. "chapter", "write"; 48. "Bill Shankly"; 49. "the start"; 50. "least important".

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE
#1 MADRID: Screen in background is upside-down; Jürgen wearing watch on opposite wrist; no UCL patch on Firmino's sleeve; club crest has changed colour on scarf; extra microphone added to camera.
#2 QATAR: FIFA banner missing in background; Jordan Henderson has two medals; no lines on pitch; NB removed from boss' trousers; Milner's boots have changed colour.


istanbul

JERZY CALLING

Fifteen years on from Istanbul, ex-Reds keeper, Champions League winner and lockdown gardener Jerzy Dudek reflects upon his unforgettable LFC experience

Interview courtesy UEFA



Jerzy, thank you for taking the time to talk to us. How are you doing? Is everyone okay in Poland?

Hi, it's nice to talk to you. It's a strange situation for all of us but fortunately we are all safe, especially the oldest members of the family. It's a bit strange but we need to keep the discipline, follow the rules and everything's going to be okay.

Have you had a fitness regime while you've been in lockdown?

I'm doing bike exercises three or four times a week. I play golf but, as you'll understand, the courses are closed during this quarantine.

Have you found any lost hobbies?

I've been at home with my family and I have to say, we've got to know each other very well – or better, let's say. It's nice preparing breakfast for the kids.

I had to clear this room! I haven't had the time for the last seven years. You find some work that you normally don't have time to do. Things like the garden or cleaning the garage. You really appreciate this time.

You might not know this, but when I started to play football – I was 18 years old and they took us out of the coal mine – my job was to look after the football field. Since then I've always cut the grass in my garden, fed it, done all the stuff greenkeepers do.

What about TV? Have you been watching any old videos, maybe one of Istanbul?

Not Istanbul, no. But in the first week of lockdown my oldest girl – she's 13 and loves all the Marvel films – said "Okay, every night now we're going to watch one movie." And we've finished them all. Now we've just watched the whole series of *La Casa de Papel* [Money Heist] in two days, it was so good.

Back to the football – can you describe what Anfield is like on a big European night?

Special, absolutely, especially when you play Champions League nights. When I stopped playing I took my brother to Anfield and we stayed there for four days and we experienced a Champions League night as supporters.

You cannot describe it to anyone. The players wait for these nights, everyone is waiting for these special games, especially when you have to win. You know that the supporters will be the 12th man. It comes together as a beautiful, powerful thing.

What about your favourite Champions League memories from Anfield?
My first experience was, I think, against Roma [in March 2001]. We had to win 2-0 that night to go through and the support was amazing, from the first to the last minute. Then the semi-final against Chelsea [2005] when we beat them 1-0. I didn't hear anything during that game because it was so loud.

In that 2005 run what made that Liverpool side so defensively strong?
Rafa Benitez was a master at this kind of stuff. For each game he prepared different tactics.

Against Juventus in the quarters we won 2-1 at Anfield. We conceded the goal which meant that we had to be very careful. It was a little bit strange because Rafa was telling us: "Guys, we are going there to play a 0-0." And it was like: "Hello – can we really do it? With Ibrahimovic and all the big stars, can we keep a clean-sheet?" But he was always believing in us and we managed it, 0-0 in Turin, and we went to the semi-finals.

Rafa changed a lot of things. We worked very hard on tactics and we had to stick to them. Sometimes it's not easy. When you have players that want to dribble, dribble and dribble again, Rafa said: "You dribble and you deliver because there are people waiting there. You don't dribble twice." He was angry when someone dribbled twice because he was not on time [with the delivery].

He was always talking to us about these small things and I think they made the difference. Of course, when you get to the final you want to win. The final is different.







What do you remember of the build-up to that final?
First of all, we had to find training facilities with the same climate. We went to Spain to have the same kind of humidity, the same temperature. We were working there for one week and we knew it was special.

You try to keep your normal routine for a game, but it was not a normal game. You see so many journalists the day before, during the training sessions. You know that the pressure is big.

And then after all that preparation, suddenly you're 3-0 down...
They surprised us in every factor of the game and we were in shock. We went to the dressing-room and some of the players were angry; some were sad. There were some arguments.

Rafa saw this and said: "Listen guys, two minutes for yourself, then you come back and we have to change the tactics." We didn't have that much time. Didi [Hamann] came on and I think that was the key. He stopped them going through the middle and he kept the ball, which was very important.

What happened just before you came out of the dressing-room?
The referee was knocking and knocking. We hadn't finished the talk with Rafa and he was putting pressure on us: "Come on, guys, come on – we have to go!"

Rafa's assistant, Alex Miller, said: "Listen, guys. Stop. Listen. Forget about the first half. First of all, you have to score a goal as fast as you can. They won't be under pressure because they're still winning 3-1.

"Then you score the second goal and they're going to start to panic. And when they panic you're going to score this third goal straightaway, because you're Liverpool and you always play to the end."

He finished his talk and we went to the tunnel and something amazing happened. We started to hear *You'll Never Walk Alone*. It started from the left side, let's say. One thousand, ten thousand, twenty thousand people singing *You'll Never Walk Alone*.



Stevie [Gerrard] asked everyone to come into the middle. We did a circle and he said: "Listen, do you hear that? They still believe in us. We have to give them something back."

We didn't think we'd score the three goals but we wanted to keep our level, the character, and maybe one goal to give something back. The supporters travelled so far to watch the game. And from the first goal, the magic started to happen.

How does a goalkeeper experience a comeback like that, when everything's going on at the other end?

You see this changing: one goal, wow, second goal, third goal. But it's still a long game because, as you remember, we scored those three goals in six minutes and we still had a lot of time to play. You have to be focused, on your toes all the time.

Sometimes when I'd come back from games I was so tired and my friends would say: "How can you be tired – you didn't even have one shot to save!" But you're so focused on the game – you know from experience that one moment could change everything. It could leave you as the winner or the loser.

You had your moment in extra-time, that save from Shevchenko was phenomenal...

Someone threw the ball into the box and I saw two, three players. One of them was Jon Dahl Tomasson and the other was Sheva [Andriy Shevchenko]. I shouted to Sami [Hyypia] that someone was behind him but it was difficult to communicate at that moment.

The first header bounced just before me, a difficult ball. I just pushed it from the line and I went into the goal, maybe half a yard. I said to myself: "You have to expect the rebound."

Sheva put all his power into this shot and that's why he gave me the chance to save it. It was a little bit of intuition, a little bit of luck, a little bit of training session.

One day I went back to Holland and my old goalkeeping coach [at Feyenoord] said to me: "It was not luck – you were working for that shot for five years!" And it's true: we'd worked with these reaction shots, from four or five yards, straight at me, a lot of times.

Then we came to the penalty shoot-out, and I was so confident after that double-save that we weren't going to lose.

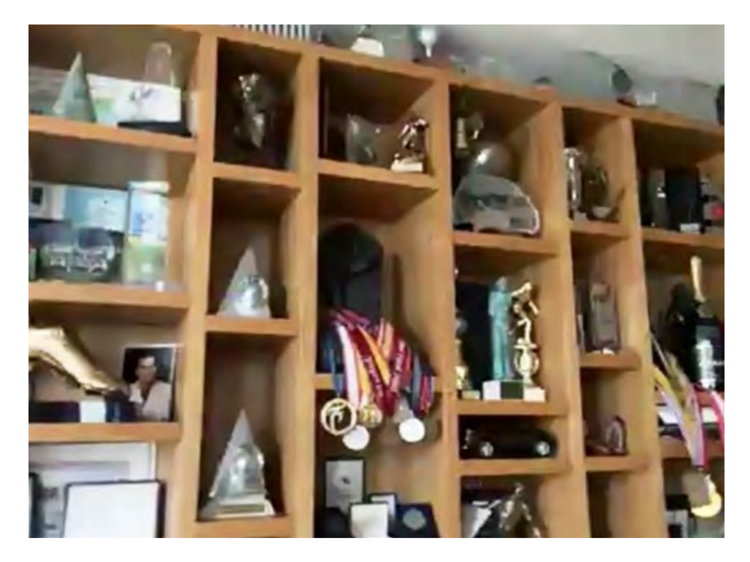
Talk us through the shoot-out...

Before the game I'd watched something like 100 penalties by Milan players. When it came to the shootout I went straight to our goalkeeping coach, Jose Ochotorena, and said: "When I see you, raise your hand, left or right, and I'll try to make them shoot to their favoured side."

Suddenly, Carra jumps on my back. "Jerzy, come on! You need to put the pressure on them! Remember Bruce Grobbelaar!" I thought, okay. I didn't want to make them laugh, just put more pressure on the players.

For the first penalty, I was moving a little bit, to the left, to the right, raising my hands, and he shot over. And then, next penalty, I was doing spaghetti legs like Bruce in 1984. But you always think: "Don't do too much – it's a Champions League final. Don't play some fool goalkeeper."

When I saved the second penalty I forgot what Ochotorena was telling me – I was so in the game. And the penalty with Pirlo, he was slowing down the shot and I was slowing down my dive, and when I saved it I knew I was off my line. I saw the referee and I said





to myself: "He will cancel it". But he said everything was okay.

Penalty after penalty, you get more confidence. But in the end, you know, it's not about great saves – it's all about bad shooting. We as goalkeepers take advantage of the bad shots.

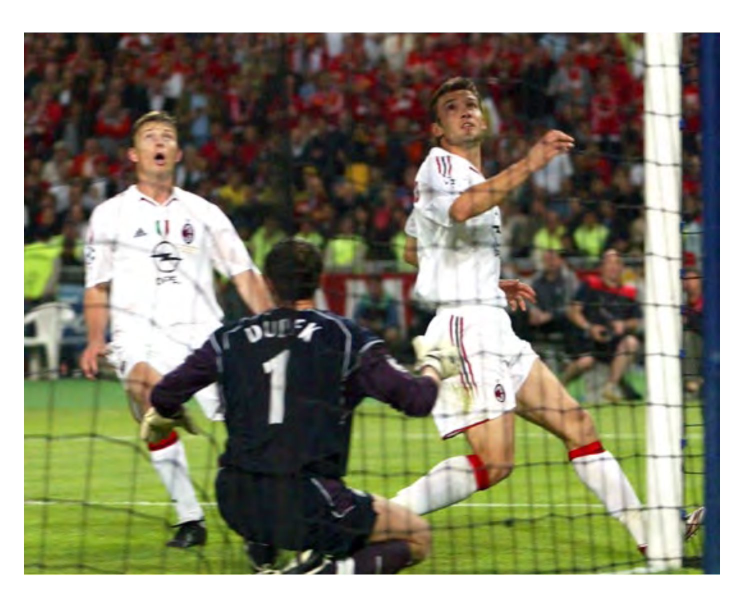
You were there last season for the final in Madrid...

Yes. I never understood that the supporters can cry. I was with my son, we were invited by UEFA, and when the game was finished, the celebrations and everything, we were still in the stands and I was watching the players running with the cup, taking pictures, and I was thinking about my night. Then I understood that the supporters can really cry after the game.

Thanks for your time today, Jerzy, and one last question: as we chat, we can see that you have lots of memorabilia behind you...

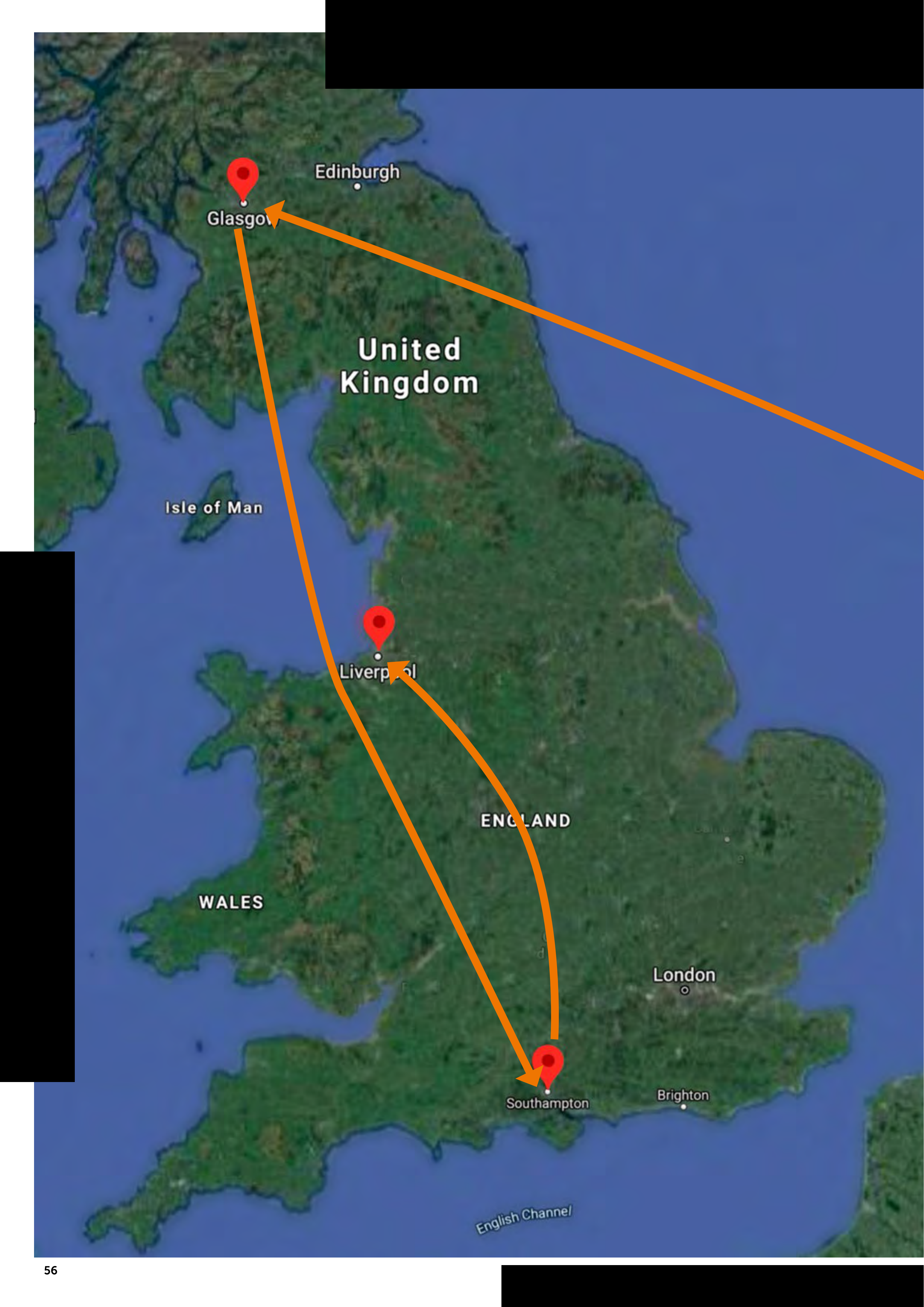
Yes [turns to look]. One for 60 games for the Polish national team; the Golden Boot I won as the best player in the Dutch Eredivisie [in 2000]; man of the match in the League Cup final against Manchester United [2003]; medals in golf like the Poland club champion, and I was on the podium, third place, racing in the 'Dubai 24 Hours'.

I also have the ball I took from the Champions League final in Istanbul, it's still in my hands. The original one, and it's still here, in a good place!



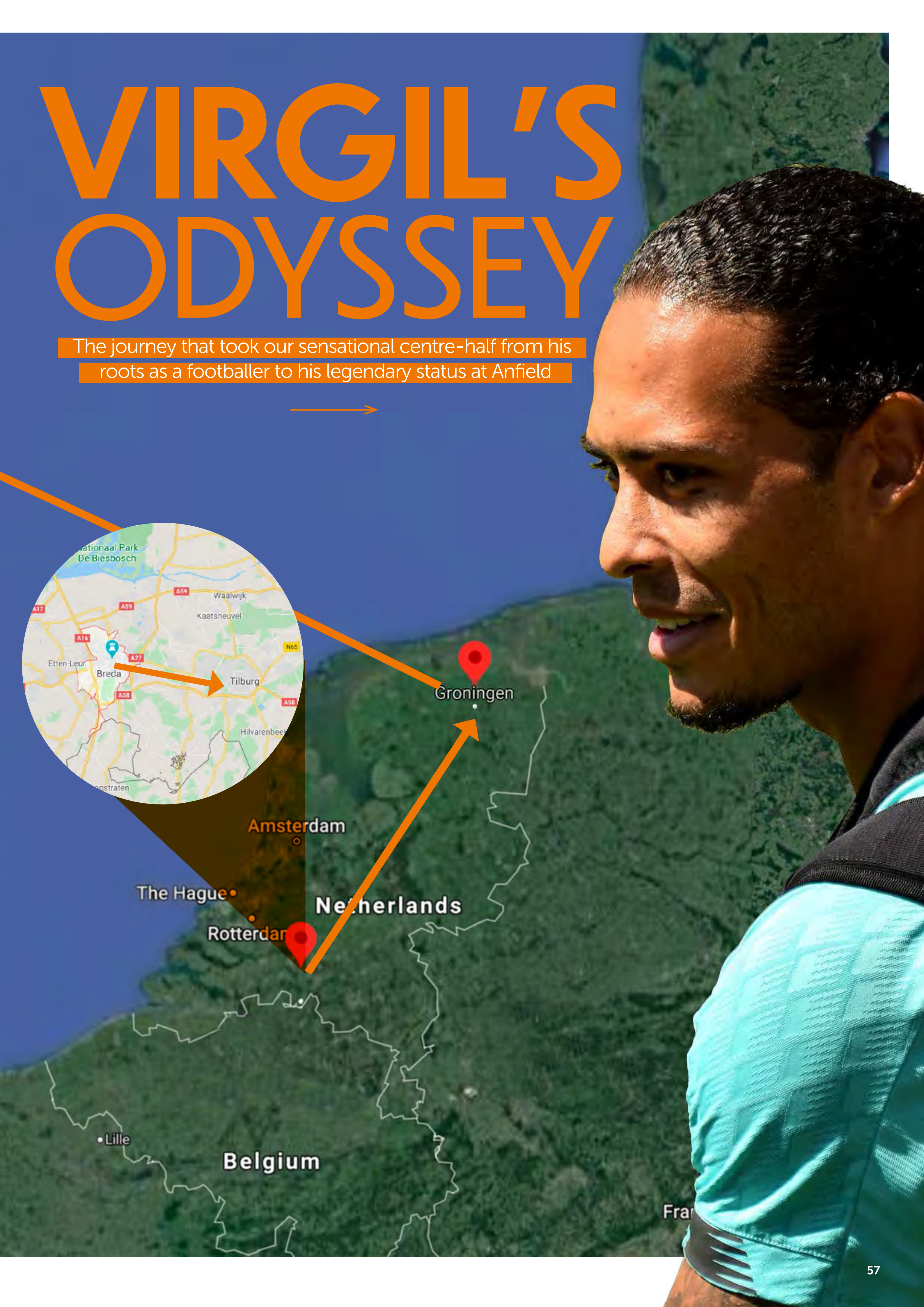





Edinburgh
United Kingdom
Isle of Man
WALES
London
Southampton
Brighton
English Channel

VIRGIL'S ODYSSEY

The journey that took our sensational centre-half from his roots as a footballer to his legendary status at Anfield





How would you describe your childhood?
It was good. I enjoyed a lot of playing outside with friends and time at school. I started playing for a club, Willem II, which was a 30-minute drive from where I lived, so there was a bit of travelling.

The team where I'm from is NAC Breda and they and Willem II had a bit of an 'Old Firm' feeling like they have in Glasgow with Celtic-Rangers. I was playing for the team 30 minutes away and I enjoyed every bit of it. I was in the academy there for ten years and it was a fantastic time.

Is it true that you started off as a right-back?
I think in the early, early days everyone tried to score goals and tried to attack and played upfront. But after I came to the academy I played as a defender. I played as a centre-back and I played a little bit everywhere as a defender and obviously as you get older you start to focus on one position.

Centre-back was the one for me, but there was also a period where I didn't play and I was on the bench. There were also periods where I was playing right-back as well. I think overall that helped me develop.

What were your main attributes then?
To be fair, I would be an average player. Until I was 16 I wasn't a standout player. I wasn't anyone that you would say, "Oh, look at him, he's one of the better players on the team." I was an 'alright' squad player. But I think at that time the growth-spurt that every youngster gets at one point, came. Luckily I got that when I was 16 and after that it went very well.

Football was an important part of your life...
It was all football, football, football. I was playing it outside. On a Saturday I was playing football with my friends still and then you would play your club games on a Sunday. I think every day was about football and if I'm looking back I would say it was a fantastic time.

Who were your childhood footballing heroes?
I had a period when I was 15 or 16 and you always wanted to be a player when you play outside. You would say to your friends, you're going to be that player, I'm going to be this player. At that time it was Ronaldinho. From what I had seen, he played with so much joy on the pitch and obviously scored some outstanding goals. There were so many good players around, but I loved Ronaldinho.

Were you a normal teenager and did you ever get into trouble with your mates?
I'd get into a little bit of trouble now and then but that's just part of your youth. I went to school like everyone and after school I was always training. There was a period when I turned 16 where I went to school in the city where I played, so I was up early in the morning, on the train and then to school.

It was like: wake up, take the bike to the station to Tilburg, go to school and then I would take the bike to training. I was literally away from, say, 7.30 in the morning until 8pm in the evening. That was basically my life at the time. It just went like that, I didn't complain. I enjoyed every bit of it and obviously the only thought in my head at the time was about playing football. But I knew also at the back of my mind that school was very important.

On the free days that I had, for example on a Wednesday evening or a Sunday evening, I tried to work to earn a little bit of extra money.

Your growth-spurt also brought a few problems...
Once I'd turned 16 I really started to take big steps. At first I got an injury because of the growth-spurts and I had growing issues and a few knee problems. But I think afterwards I started to progress and make big steps as a player. Obviously things were not the best straightaway but I felt in myself that I was making significant steps and yes, after that I just kept progressing and kept growing.





AT CELTIC THE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE WAS OBVIOUSLY A MASSIVE THING FOR ME AND TO GET TO PLAY IN IT IN MY FIRST SEASON THERE WAS GREAT FOR MY DEVELOPMENT

You moved to Groningen and worked under Martin Koeman, the father of Ronald and Erwin...

He was one of the guys there, yes. Of course I had great respect for the Koeman family and it was good to know him. He sadly passed away a few years ago [in 2013].

It was a fantastic step for me. Where I'm from in the Netherlands is down south and Groningen is way up north and it takes almost three hours to get there so for me it was a different world. It was a different environment and I lived on my own for the first time, but I enjoyed every bit of it. It was an amazing time.

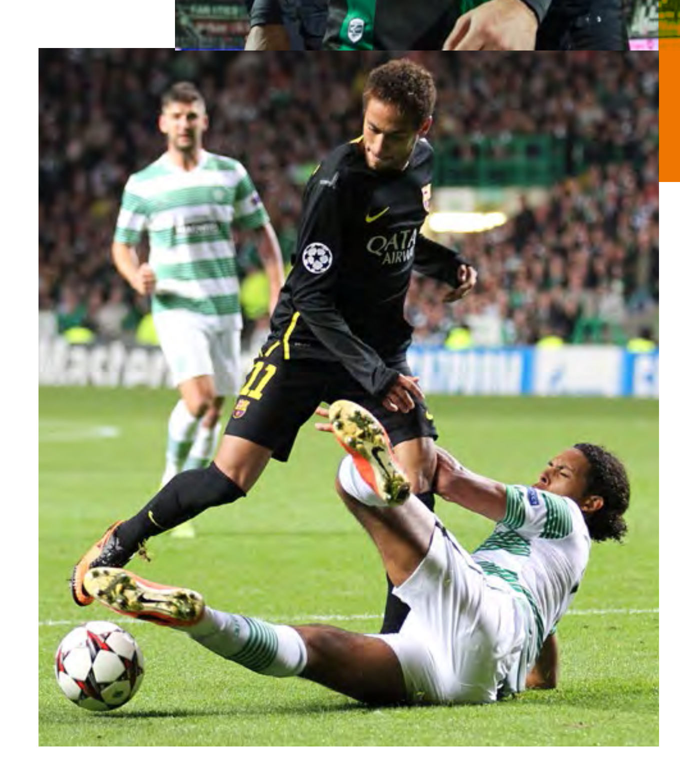
You joined Groningen after Willem II let you go – how tough was that?

I can only speak of my situation and how it actually happened. Obviously I was ten years in the Academy at Willem II and my ambition was always to make my debut for Willem II and be a big player for the club. That was my dream at the time.

I was very sad that they didn't offer me a contract. I think they thought I took it a bit too easy at the time. Afterwards it's too easy to make judgements on decisions that have been made, and they did offer me something after I'd decided to join Groningen, but it wasn't the right contract. It happens.

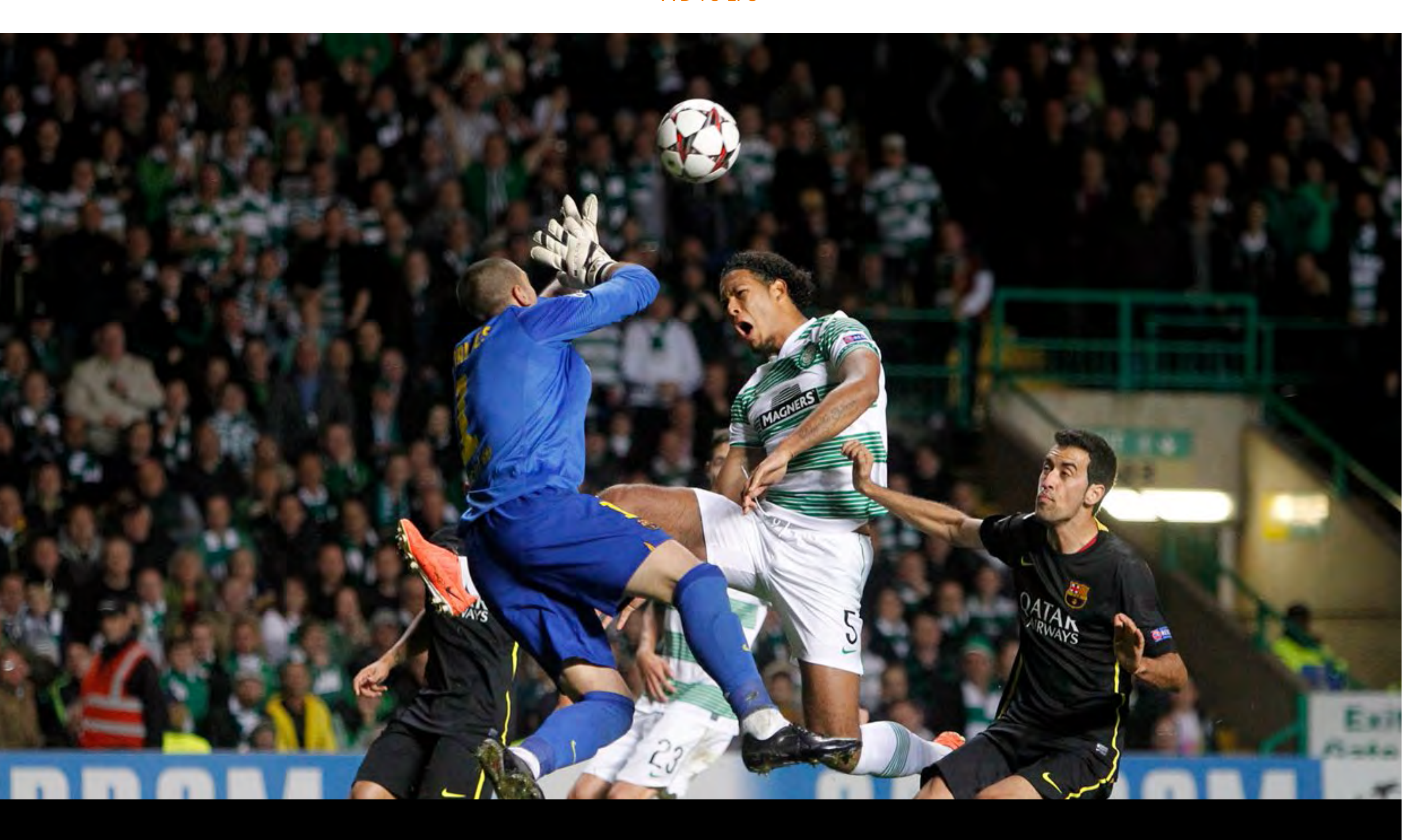
All I would say is that afterwards it's always easy to blame someone and say you should have done this, you should have done that. It all went how it went and my next step to Groningen was perfect for me. They were very keen to sign me and had a nice plan for me and a set-up which definitely suited me. In the end I decided to make that step and started playing for their Under-23s.

Everyone has their own path and their own story and I think this was perfect for me and helped me become the man and the player who I am today. Sometimes I hear questions like why didn't the bigger clubs in Holland sign you from Groningen and why did you go to Celtic? But, as I say, afterwards it is always easy to judge and I'm very happy with the path my career has taken.



What can you recall about your debut for Groningen?

My debut was pretty alright because we played away to Den Haag [in May 2011] and I came on when we were 3-2 up and we won 4-2, so that was fine. Then I came on in the game after, which was a play-off game, and then there was the famous game which was the play-off final for the Europa League, also against Den Haag. We lost 5-1.



I came on in that game as a right-back and then I started the return game as a centre-back. We conceded the first goal so were 6-1 down on aggregate, but in the second-half I went upfront and scored. To be honest, it was a terrible free-kick but it obviously counted. I then scored another one on the break and in the end we were 5-1 up to level the scores on aggregate!

Unluckily I had to get subbed because I had cramp and just could not walk. We lost on penalties but that day was an unforgettable one for me. After that I really made a bit of a name for myself and the year after I played almost every game.

Were you regularly used upfront?
I know that with my height I can be dangerous and in that particular game it worked a lot, but to be honest I thought, no, just leave me at the back!

Did you think much about your next move? After two full seasons in the Eredivisie, you signed for Celtic...
I don't think too far ahead but obviously when I feel that there is more to get and a next step in my career I will definitely try to progress and try to go for it when the time is right.

At FC Groningen I played there almost three years and felt it was time to take the next step. I discussed it and thought about my direction and normally the next step would be to join a top club in Holland, but those teams didn't make the decision to sign me and so I went to Celtic.

Celtic was fantastic for my development and also for me as a person.

You enjoyed your time at Parkhead...
Celtic is a massive club. I think sometimes people underestimate it and it is such a great historic environment to be a part of. The fans are outstanding and the stadium is amazing. The Champions League was obviously a massive thing for me and to get to play in the Champions League in the first season I went there was great for my development. Obviously we didn't play too well but it helps you grow as a player and get so much experience which was very important.

How did you find the transition to the Scottish Premier League?
You definitely have to adapt. The main thing was that I was in a team that everyone expected to win. Everyone expected us to have the ball as much as possible and I had never really been in a team that had that expectation before. When I played with Willem II or FC Groningen you would have some games of domination but also some where you have to defend a lot. That was the reality.

When we arrived at Glasgow Airport and the press were there, that was something new for me as well. The first press-conference was something new and the Scottish accent of course was something to get used to. There was a long question and I didn't understand any of it and I started to feel a little bit dizzy! But it was all part of my development and I enjoyed every bit.







I made so much progress over there, with and without the ball, defending in a different way, so it all helped and it was a fantastic step for me. The Champions League matches were outstanding and I'm very blessed that I have been able to enjoy them here again because the atmospheres with the Champions League games at Celtic Park and obviously at Anfield are something different.

You scored a few free-kicks too...
I tried them at Celtic and it worked a couple of times over there but we are very lucky that we have a couple of good free-kick takers here. We have Trent Alexander-Arnold and Mo can take them with his left foot as well, so I'm not going to fight to take a free-kick!

You were not named in the World Cup squad in 2014 – how hard was that?
I wasn't too disappointed. The thing is, the manager at the time decides who is going to go to the World Cup and you have to accept it, which is what I did. It made me want to work even harder and that was it.

There must be reasons. If the manager doesn't think you're good enough, then you've got to work even harder and that's the only way you can be. You can't change the decision. The only thing you can change is making sure you work harder than before.

Your mother is from Surinam – how do you view the Surinamese influence?
I think the Surinam people have a similar temperament. We have our own way of thinking and sometimes you can be very direct and also very open and lively.

Surinam has always produced good players. If you look at the players who could have played for Surinam over the last years then you could have a pretty good team: [Clarence] Seedoorf, [Frank] Rijkaard, [Edgar] Davids and then Gini and myself here at Liverpool... There are plenty of good players with Surinam roots.



After a couple of seasons at Celtic you moved to the Premier League with Southampton?
The step for me to Southampton was also a perfect one. I was very happy that Ronald Koeman brought me over there and gave me the chance to play in the Premier League and that was one of the main reasons I went as well.

I learnt so much and am still learning from him as he is obviously the manager of the national team. I have learnt a lot from him as a player and as a human being and he has been very important for my career.

MOVING TO SOUTHAMPTON WAS ALSO A PERFECT STEP FOR ME. I LEARNED SO MUCH FROM RONALD KOEMAN AND STILL AM

You really enjoyed your spell at St Mary's...
Yes. I think that you don't need to put too much pressure on yourself. There will always be pressure, no matter what, at any club, but the only thing you can do and that you have influence on is what you do on the pitch and your own performances.

Anyone can have their opinions these days and they can be good or bad, but at the end of the day it's all about what you do on the pitch so that's the thing that I think about.

You are only 28 but do you ever think about life after football?
One hundred per cent. At the beginning of my career I thought I might be a manager but being at this period now I don't think I will be, but I would definitely like to be involved.

The world that we live in can be very cruel. There are a lot of people that have opinions and it can affect you, and if you had the choice then you would rather not be involved in those kind of situations, but I think I would definitely be involved in football.

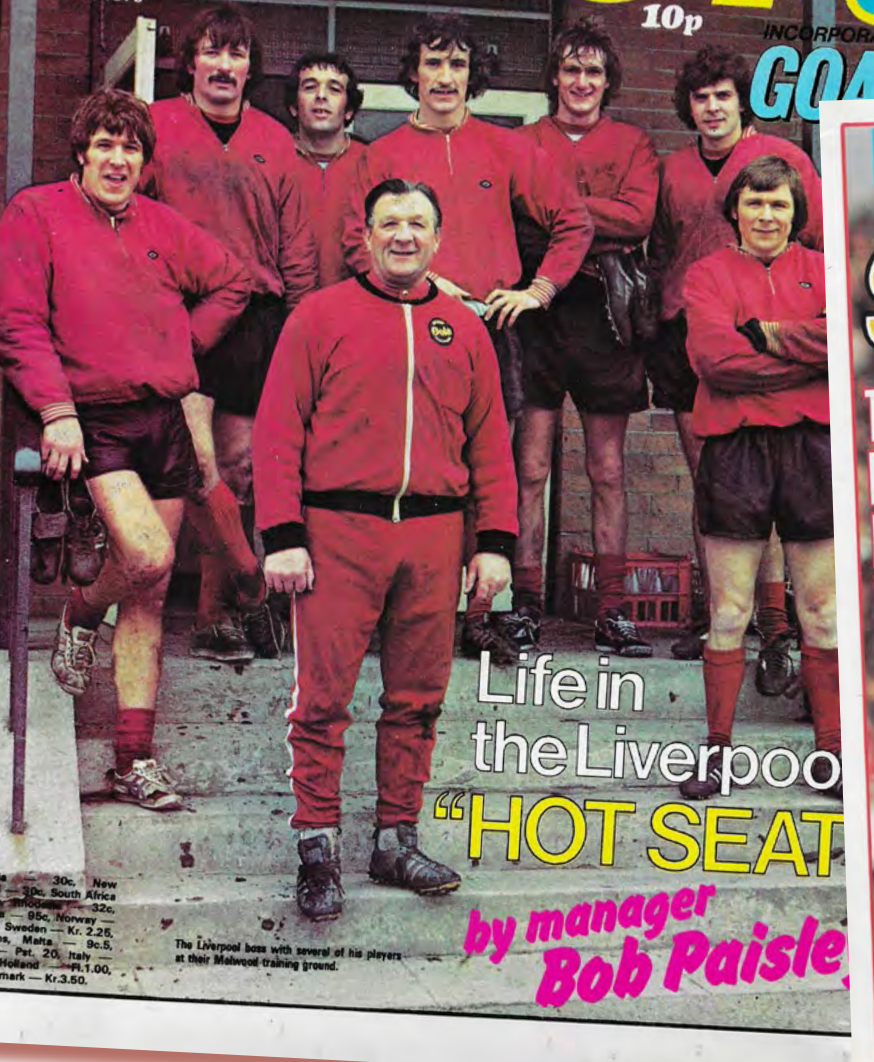
I won't be a pundit because you have to be saying certain things that maybe you don't want to, but we'll see. I think I have a good eye for spotting talent, so maybe I would do something in that line.

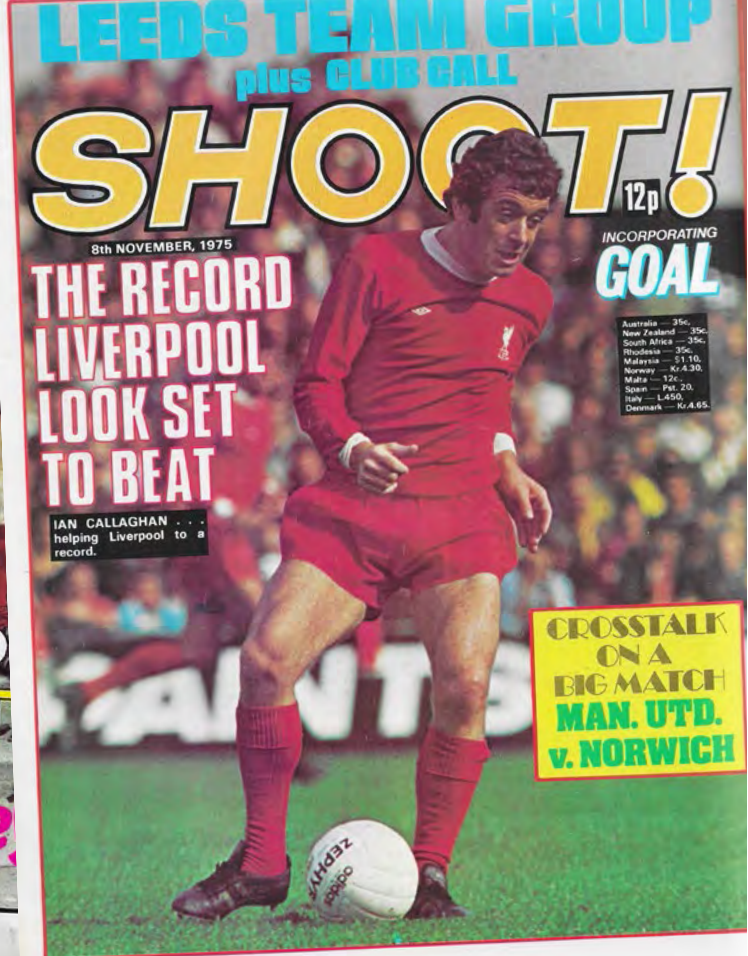
COVER STARS

PART TWO 1975-91

Fifteen years of LFC dominance up to the eve of the new Premier League, as documented by Shoot! magazine (and a shout for Football Weekly News)







March 1976 saw Reds striking duo John Toshack and Kevin Keegan in their respective international kits ahead of a friendly in Wrexham to mark the centenary of the Welsh FA. It would finish 2-1 to England, with another Liverpool star, Ray Kennedy, opening the scoring.

Midfielder Ray was on the cover of *Shoot!* in August 1978 by which time Liverpool had two new rivals in reigning top-flight champions Nottingham Forest, managed by Brian Clough, and FA Cup winners Ipswich Town, led by Bobby Robson. They met at Wembley in the FA Charity Shield, with Forest running out 5-0 winners, but it was the Reds who would roar back to claim their third league title in four seasons with the highest points total (68) and best home record (40 points from 21 games) ever attained in First Division history.

Far-left from April 1975 and the front cover of the best-selling weekly football mag is straight outta Melwood. Manager Bob Paisley, near the end of his first full season at the helm, poses with Reds players Emlyn Hughes, Tommy Smith, Ian Callaghan, Terry McDermott, Phil Thompson, Peter Cormack and Brian Hall.

On taking over from Bill Shankly the previous year, Bob recalled: "I didn't learn of his resignation until I returned from a holiday. I drove into Anfield and there was Bill holding a press-conference.

"I was asked by the directors to step into Bill's shoes and said I was willing to give it a try."

Left: November 1975 and that 'record Liverpool look set to beat' was to land a top-eight finish for a 14th consecutive season. They did.

FOOTBALL WEEKLY NEWS

AUGUST 6–12 1980

INSIDE...

FA Charity Shield Preview

plus a look at the

LEAGUE CUP FIRST ROUND





CHARITY SHIELD SPECIAL



LIVERPOOL'S TOP CHOICE

EVEN before Liverpool embarked upon their four match pre-season tour of Europe, Bob Paisley had decided on his team for Saturday's Charity Shield showpiece against West Ham at Wembley.

It is the 11 who virtually picked themselves through the bulk of last season's championship drive and barring accident or injury that same well-tried unit will carry Liverpool into a League campaign which beckons their fifth title in six years.

The four youngsters who stepped in last spring, when a run of injuries caught up with Liverpool in their FA Cup semi-final marathon against Arsenal and on the final furlong of the title race are not — as yet — pencilled into the first team line-up.

The quartet, Sammy Lee, David Fairclough, Colin Irwin and Israeli international Avi Cohen were included in the 16-strong squad Liverpool took across to the Continent for games against Dundalk, Anderlecht, Danish Cup holders Hvidore and VFB Suttgart.

But Paisley makes it clear that barring injury to his front-line men he is not yet ready to plunge them into regular first team action.

He said: "It's only fair that the team which did most to win the championship and get us to the Charity Shield should play in that match. Injuries permitting, the line-up should be the same us usual."

The two newcomers who joined Liverpool at the end of last season, striker Ian Rush from Chester and Fulham defender Richard Money — a package worth £600,000 — were left out of the tour.

Explained Paisley: "It was a busy eight days away with four games in four countries. I didn't think the pattern of travel-play-travel with a lot of journeying involved was the right time to throw new men into action. It was better for Rush and Money to train at Melwood, pick up the atmosphere of the club and be ready to be called upon if required."

Typically, Paisley would prefer two League points to winning the Charity Shield but he sees Saturday's game as a useful pipe-opener for the more serious business ahead. "The Wembley result is not vital, but a big game there always whets the appetite for the opening of the season a week later," he said.

Scarcely a tipster in the game will deny Liverpool's right to pole position on August 16. Every bookmaker in the land has them as favourites for the title, which Paisley annually marks down as priority for the season, even though Liverpool are competing in the European Cup for the fifth consecutive time.

The line-up of Clemence, Neal, Kennedy (Alan), Thompson, Kennedy (Ray), Hansen, Dalglish, Case, Johnson, McDermott and Souness gives Liverpool their best chance of success. Between October 6 and January 12 of last season that team ran through 19 matches without defeat, scoring 52 goals and conceding 10.

During that period they played what Paisley describes "as the finest football I have ever seen."

Yet while Liverpool's advantage over all their rivals rests with continuety in the team, the long-term future inevitably demands changes. The subtlety with which such changes have been made over the years are part of the key to Liverpool's domination of the domestic game. The replacement process has been gradual, so on the whole it has never suffered from the fitting of new parts (witness Alan Hansen for Emlyn Hughes, Graeme Souness for Ian Callaghan).

The present team is not, as yet, in need of new parts. But Paisley is more aware than any man that a team which picks itself can grow old together (witness the Liverpool team of the mid-sixties, hastily and belatedly dismantled at the turn of the decade).

Paisley's handicap is maintaining Liverpool's consistency for a following to whom failure to win a major honour constitutes failure.

High on the list of Paisley's priorities is the securing of a successor to Ray Clemence. During July he spent a week in Canada to run his eye over Vancouver Whitecaps' Rhodesian born goalkeeper, Bruce Grobelaar. Grobelaar won't be available until the end of the NASL season, which runs into September, an irritation to Liverpool who wanted to register the player in time to qualify for the first two rounds of the European Cup.

If and when Grobelaar does arrive, he will have his own waiting to do, possibly for as long as three or four years, until Clemence stands down. Clemence himself served such an apprenticeship under Tommy Lawrence.

Clemence can be picked out as an example not because his position is the most vulnerable (if anything, it is the reverse) but to make a point of the long-term planning Liverpool have done, and must continue to do, to stay on their dizzy pinacle.

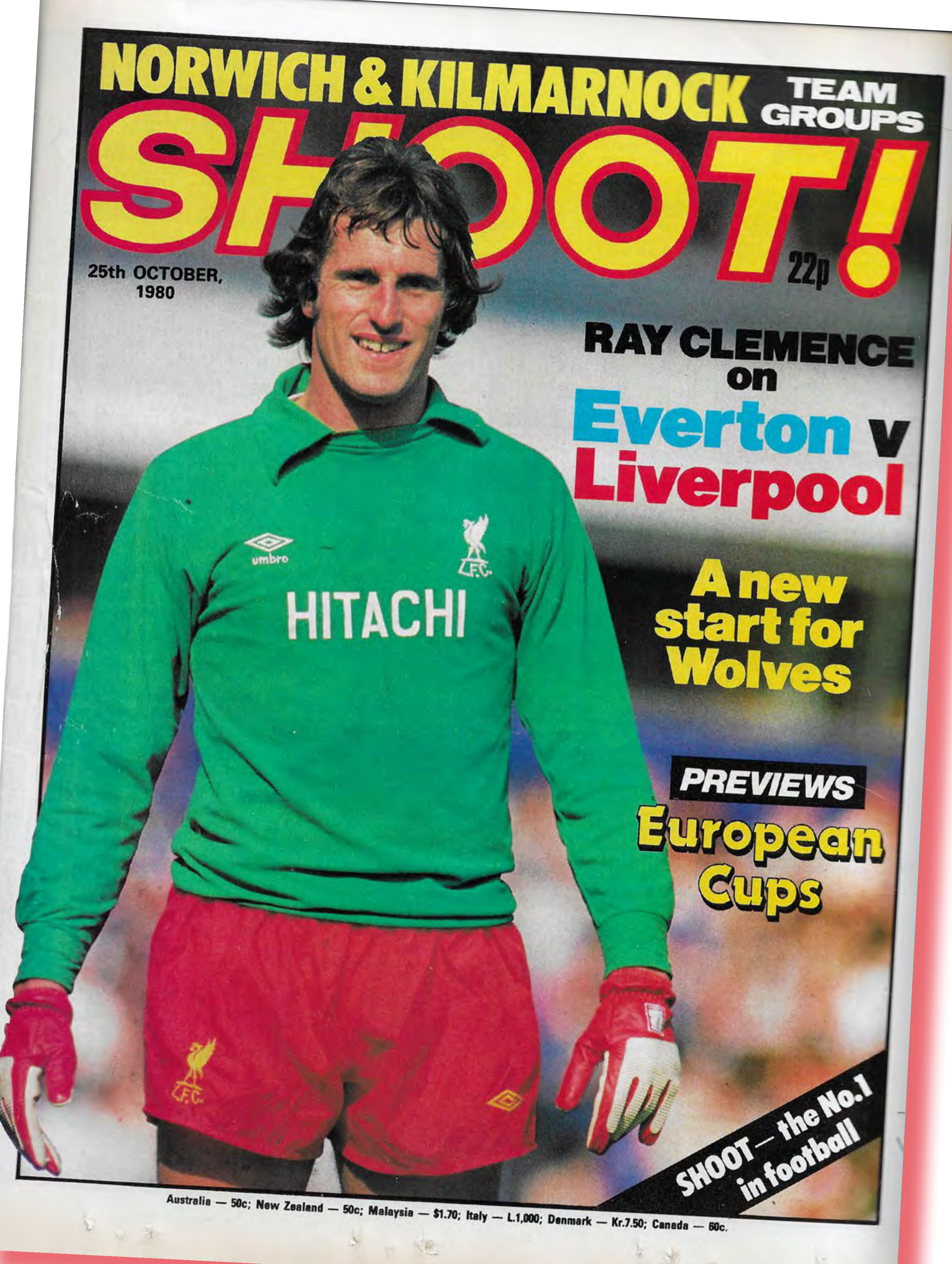
No team has gone on winning for so long. Yet Anfield's attitude to this coming season, and indeed the long-term future, is aptly illustrated by a poster which hangs in Paisley's office under the main stand. It is a picture of half-a-dozen young piglets, squeezing and jostling to climb above each other. The quotation beneath reads: "It's hard to stay on top."

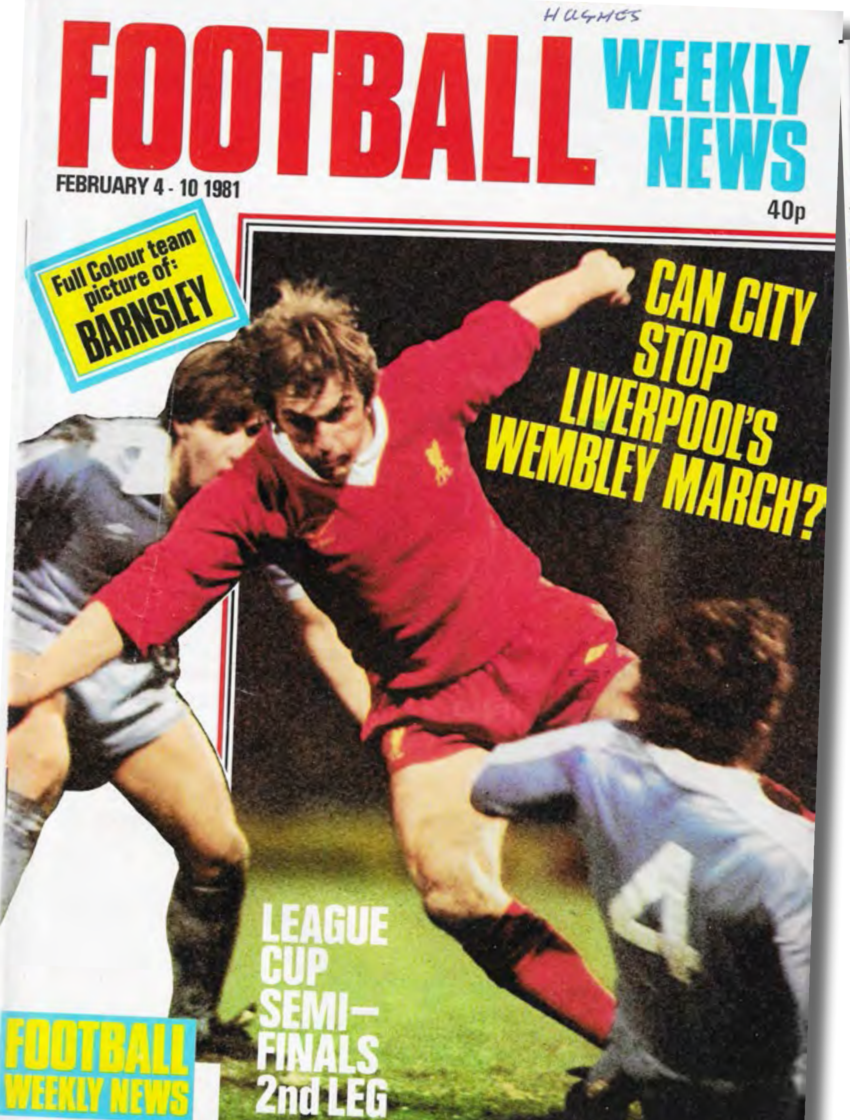
STEWART WATTS



Phil Thompson and Sammy Lee show off the League Championship trophy to Kop fans. It looks as if Sammy will be on the sidelines at Wembley.

Far left: Terry McDermott, the PFA and FWA Footballer of the Year for season 1979/80, graced the cover of an August 1980 edition of *Football Weekly News*, which had recently changed its name from *Soccer Star* and was formerly edited by Jack Rollin. He and his daughter Glenda also found fame as the team behind the sport's 'bible' – the *Rothmans Yearbook* (later sponsored by Sky Sports).



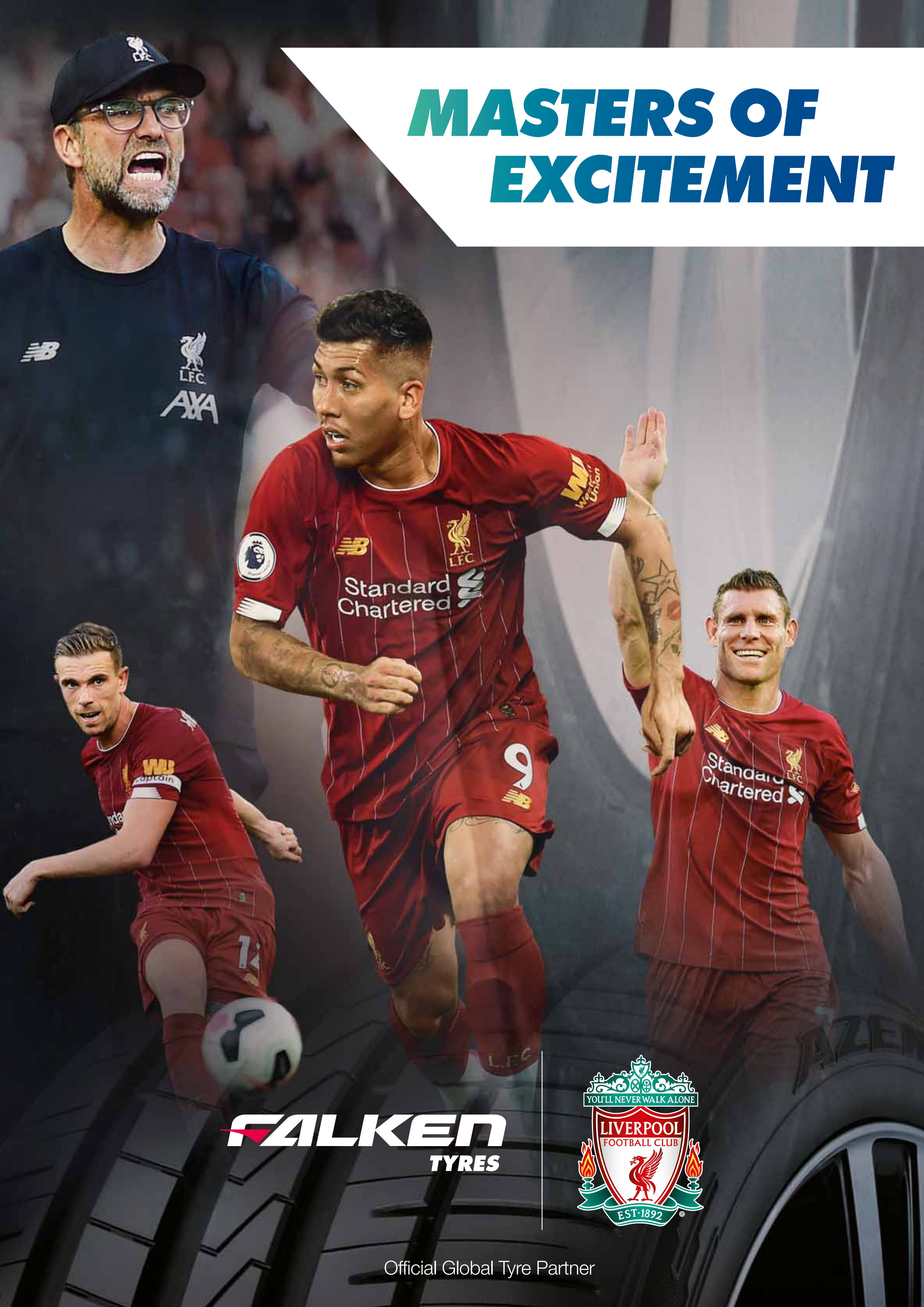


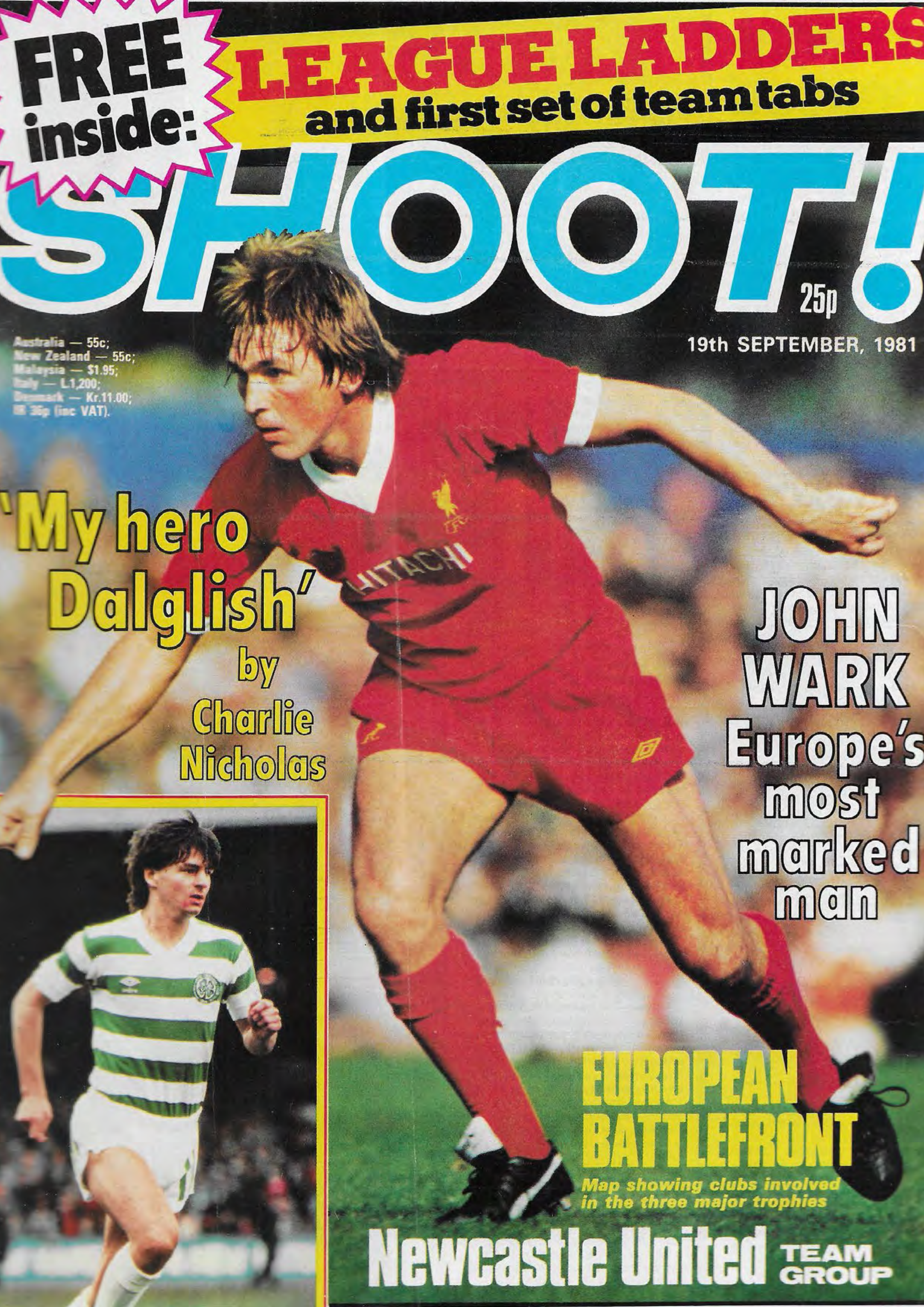


Kenny Dalglish was on the cover of *Football Weekly News* twice in little over a month in early 1981 as the Reds closed in on their first-ever League Cup triumph. They beat Manchester City in the two-legged semi-final then West Ham after a replay at Villa Park.

LIVERPOOL-KINGS OF EUROPE

BACK ROW (left to right): Graeme Souness, Steve Ogrizovic, Colin Irwin, Kenny Dalglish, Ray Clemence, Alan Hansen, David Johnson, Phil Thompson, Terry McDermott.
FRONT ROW: Howard Gayle, Alan Kennedy, Richard Money, Phil Neal, Sammy Lee, Jimmy Case, Ray Kennedy.

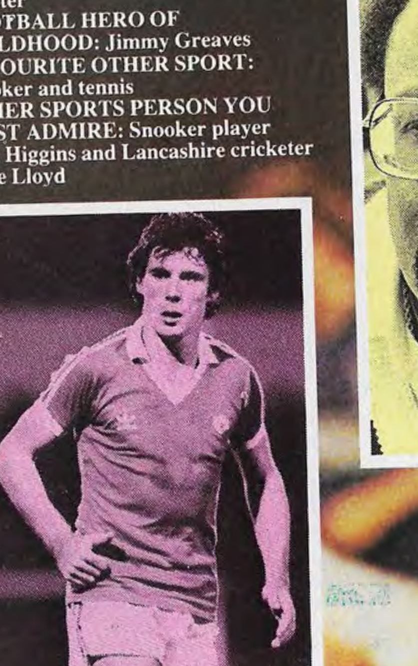

MASTERS OF EXCITEMENT
FALKEN TYRES
YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE
LIVERPOOL FOOTBALL CLUB
EST·1892
Official Global Tyre Partner


FREE inside:
LEAGUE LADDERS
and first set of team tabs
SHOOT!
25p
19th SEPTEMBER, 1981
Australia — 55c;
New Zealand — 55c;
Malaysia — $1.95;
Italy — L1,200;
Denmark — Kr.11.00;
IR 36p (inc VAT).
'My hero Dalglish'
by
Charlie Nicholas
HITACHI
JOHN WARK
Europe's most marked man
EUROPEAN BATTLEFRONT
Map showing clubs involved in the three major trophies
Newcastle United TEAM GROUP

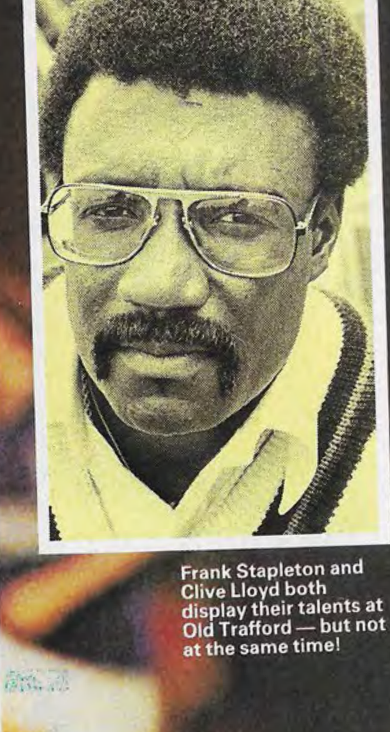


IAN RUSH
LIVERPOOL

FULL NAME: Ian James Rush
BIRTHPLACE: St. Asaph, Wales
BIRTHDATE: October 20, 1961
HEIGHT: 6 feet
WEIGHT: 11st 8lbs
MARRIED: No
CAR: Renault Fuego
PREVIOUS CLUB: Chester
JOB OR TRADE BEFORE TURNING PRO: None
NICKNAME: 'Rushy'
FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER: Daily Mirror
FAVOURITE PLAYER: Frank Stapleton (Man. Utd)
A PLAYER FOR THE FUTURE: Ronnie Whelan
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: Chester
FOOTBALL HERO OF CHILDHOOD: Jimmy Greaves
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORT: Snooker and tennis
OTHER SPORTS PERSON YOU MOST ADMIRE: Snooker player Alex Higgins and Lancashire cricketer Clive Lloyd

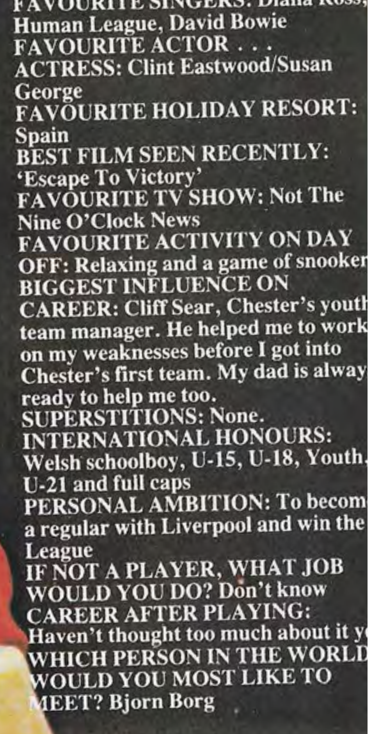


YOUR BEST EVER ALL TIME XI: Banks, Cohen, England, Moore, Cooper, Giles, Souness, Best, Law, Dalglish, Greaves
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: 1981 League Cup Final replay v West Ham. We won in my second game for Liverpool
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Not going to the World Cup Finals with Wales



Frank Stapleton and Clive Lloyd both display their talents at Old Trafford — but not at the same time!

FRIENDLIEST AWAY FANS: All of them are friendly
BEST STADIUM PLAYED IN: Wembley
FAVOURITE FOOD AND DRINK: Steak and chips, lager shandy



MISCELLANEOUS LIKES . . . DISLIKES: Music and winning . . . Losing and traffic jams
FAVOURITE SINGERS: Diana Ross, Human League, David Bowie
FAVOURITE ACTOR . . . ACTRESS: Clint Eastwood/Susan George
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Spain
BEST FILM SEEN RECENTLY: 'Escape To Victory'
FAVOURITE TV SHOW: Not The Nine O'Clock News
FAVOURITE ACTIVITY ON DAY OFF: Relaxing and a game of snooker
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: Cliff Sear, Chester's youth team manager. He helped me to work on my weaknesses before I got into Chester's first team. My dad is alway ready to help me too.
SUPERSTITIONS: None.
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: Welsh schoolboy, U-15, U-18, Youth, U-21 and full caps
PERSONAL AMBITION: To becom a regular with Liverpool and win the League
IF NOT A PLAYER, WHAT JOB WOULD YOU DO? Don't know
CAREER AFTER PLAYING: Haven't thought too much about it y
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? Bjorn Borg



Left: Ian Rush was a 20-year-old striker in his first full season as a senior player when he appeared on the back cover of *Shoot!* in May 1982. His ambition was "to become a regular with Liverpool and win the League."

Ultimately he played over 650 times for the Reds, scoring 346 goals – still the most-ever – and won five League titles, two European Cups, three FA Cups and five League Cups.

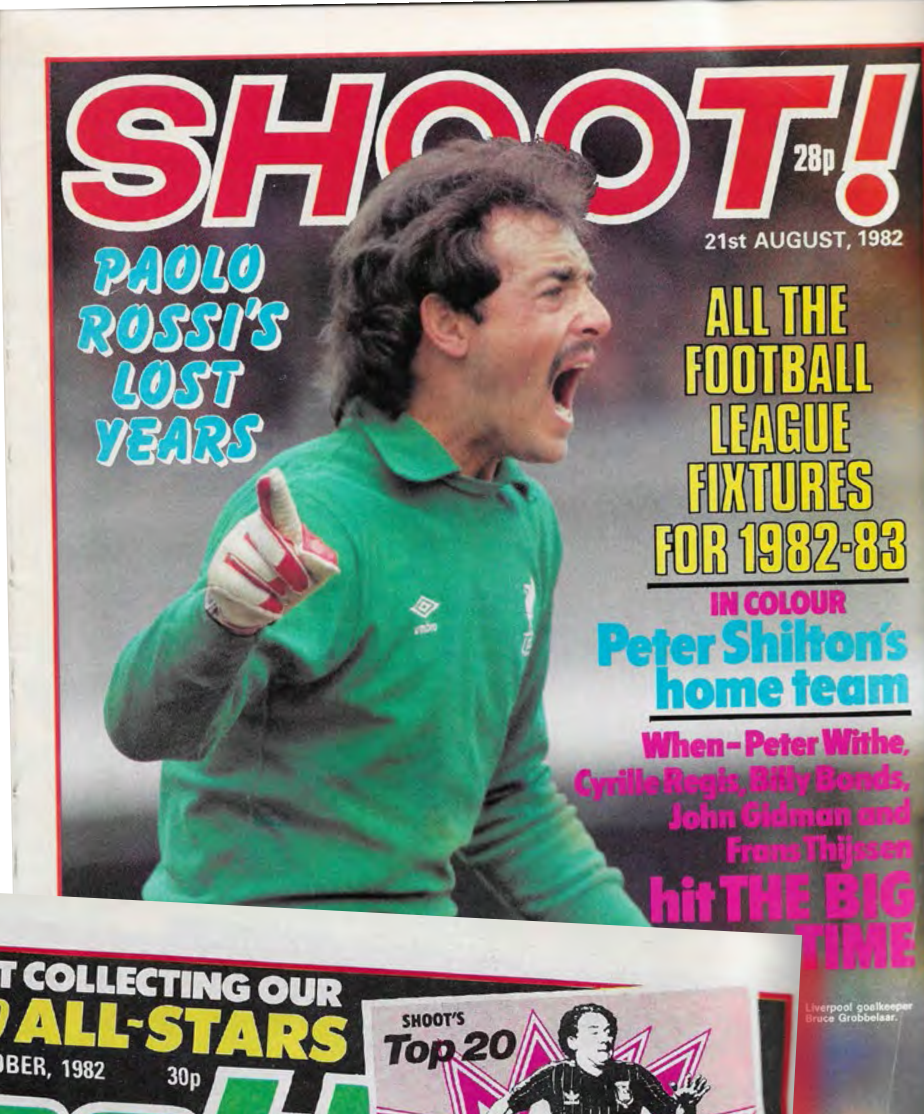
Right, it's Bruce Grobbelaar in August 1982 in his second season as Reds no1 between the posts, while below there was a 'Dalglish Shock' on the *Shoot!* front cover in early October 1982.

Inside we learn that "the Liverpool legend may be on the brink of returning to his first love Celtic!

"Liverpool, after buying David Hodgson from Middlesbrough and pushing him into the front line alongside Ian Rush, have dropped Dalglish into a withdrawn role.

"The 32-year-old still has a year of his contract at Anfield to go but Liverpool are well-known for allowing players to move on in these circumstances."

Could you imagine Twitter? Total meltdown!





Phil Thompson tackles THREE VITAL QUESTIONS

● Is Liverpool's dominance damaging our game?
● Is this their best-ever side?
● Can they achieve the 'impossible dream'?

I HAD to do a double-take when I picked up my newspaper the other day and turned to the sports pages.

I could hardly believe my eyes when I read an article about falling gates and TV football viewing figures and putting the blame on Liverpool!

The writer — backed up by quotes from some managers — came to the conclusion that one of the main reasons for the drop in interest was due to the fact that Liverpool are so dominant — that other teams weren't getting much of a look-in.

What do our critics expect us to do about the situation? Sell off our best players to other clubs, soft-pedal in games to give the opposition more of a chance, show less dedication in our training and coaching?

Example

Surely the way to attract more paying customers is for other clubs to follow Liverpool's example!

We're setting new standards, and it's up to other clubs to work hard in every respect to come up to them.

Liverpool are now reaping the benefits of years of continually striving for perfection and it hurts when the club isn't given due credit.

On the other hand, some people tend to go overboard with praise and regard us as supermen. That annoys us as much as unjustified criticism. We're just a collection of human beings selected to do a job for Liverpool F.C. and we're doing it to the best of our ability.

But we still make mistakes. We still slip from the high standards we've set ourselves.

The trouble with a lot of opponents is they step on to the pitch against us already convinced they're beaten, and uppermost in their minds is the determination to avoid being on the end of a hammering!

What I call the 'fear factor' has enabled us to beat clubs who could have turned the tables if only their players had had a more positive mental approach to the game.

Surprisingly enough, this attitude has not been shown by teams either out of the Championship race or from lower Divisions in Cup competitions.

For instance, First Division strugglers Norwich City beat us 1-0 at their place, Second Division Burnley made us look a shambles by winning by the same scoreline at Turf Moor in the second-leg of the League Milk Cup Semi-Final and Brighton inflicted the indignity of a defeat in the F.A. Cup at Anfield.

Although losing is something w[e] hate at Liverpool, the occasional defeat isn't a bad thing. It prevent[s] us from becoming complacent an[d] forces us to get back to basics.

If Liverpool have a secret it's keeping the game simple and fre[e] from complicated tactics. The emphasis is on perfect passing, positioning and non-stop effort.

Proof that fans like our style is provided by the fact that the club[s] we visit tend to clock up their biggest gates, and we seem to b[e] on television almost as much as Dallas!

Problems

People concerned with the fut[ure] of the game should be looking elsewhere for reasons for its problems.

At Anfield, we've got things right!

Having replied to the critics, [the] question I have much more pleasure answering is if the present Liverpool side is the be[st in] my experience.

I have played in what can roughly be split into three eras although players overlapped [from] one into the other.

First there was the late Bill Shankly's team. Then there w[as] the side which gradually b[uilt] after our first European Cu[p] victory in 1977, and now we [have] the second 'team' put toget[her by] Bob Paisley.

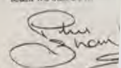
If I had to select between [the] three, I'd have to say that t[his] team is the best of the lot.

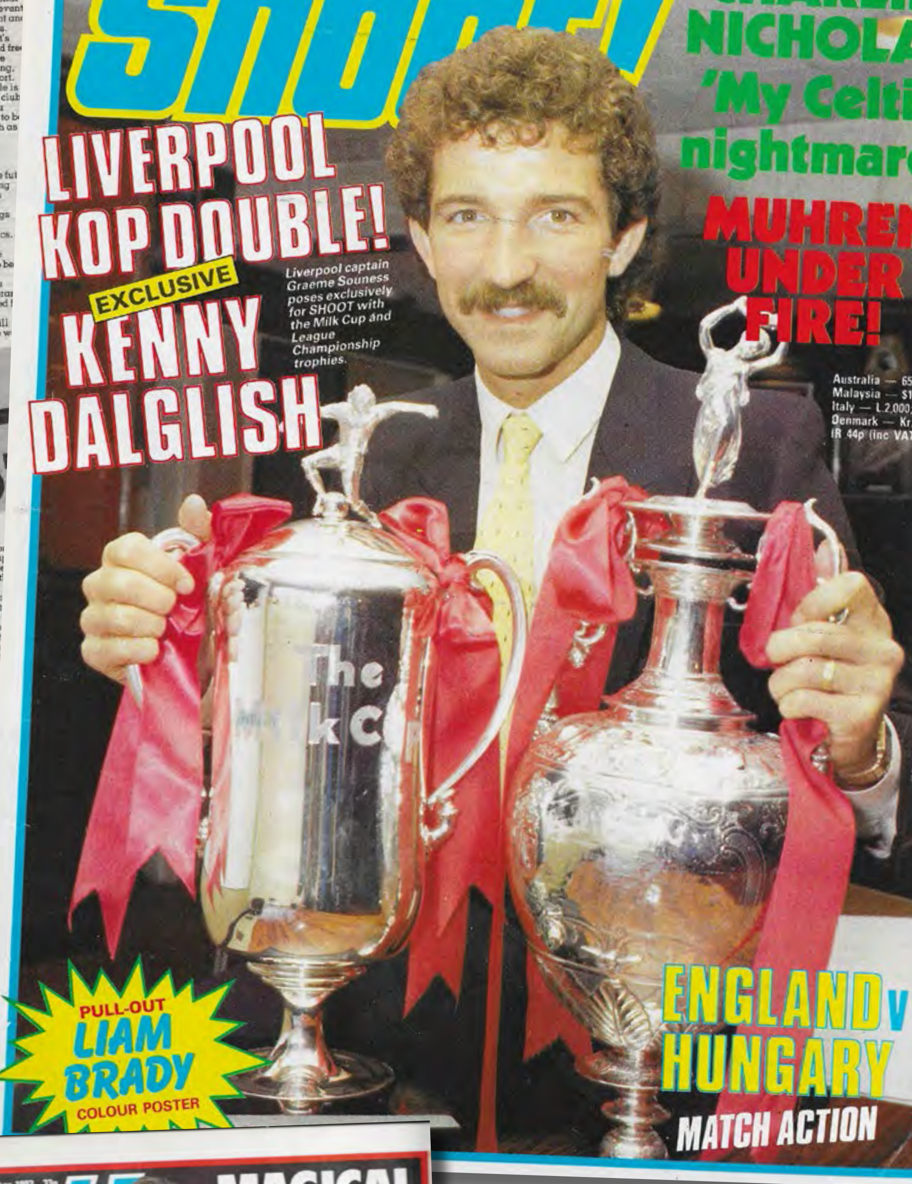
In fact, I'd go so far as to [say] that, thanks to the inspira[tion of] Kenny Dalglish, this team [is the] best in British football his[tory].

Before Brighton knocke[d us out] of the F.A. Cup, there wa[s] speculation as to whether [we] could achieve a Grand Sl[am of] four trophies.

Although I rated our ch[ances] nil, I do now believe we c[an] realise the 'impossible d[ream' of] three trophies — the Eur[opean] Cup, the Championship [and the] League Milk Cup.

It's going to take a lot [of] and a ton of luck — but [with this] team we can do it!



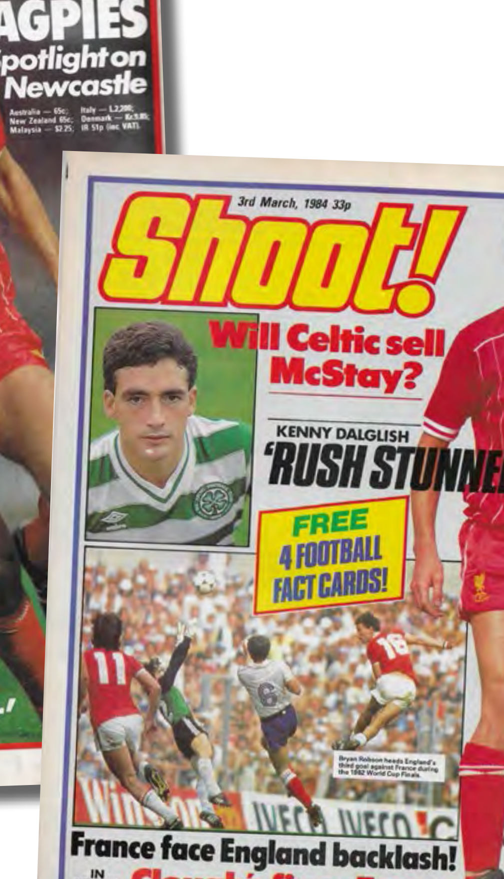


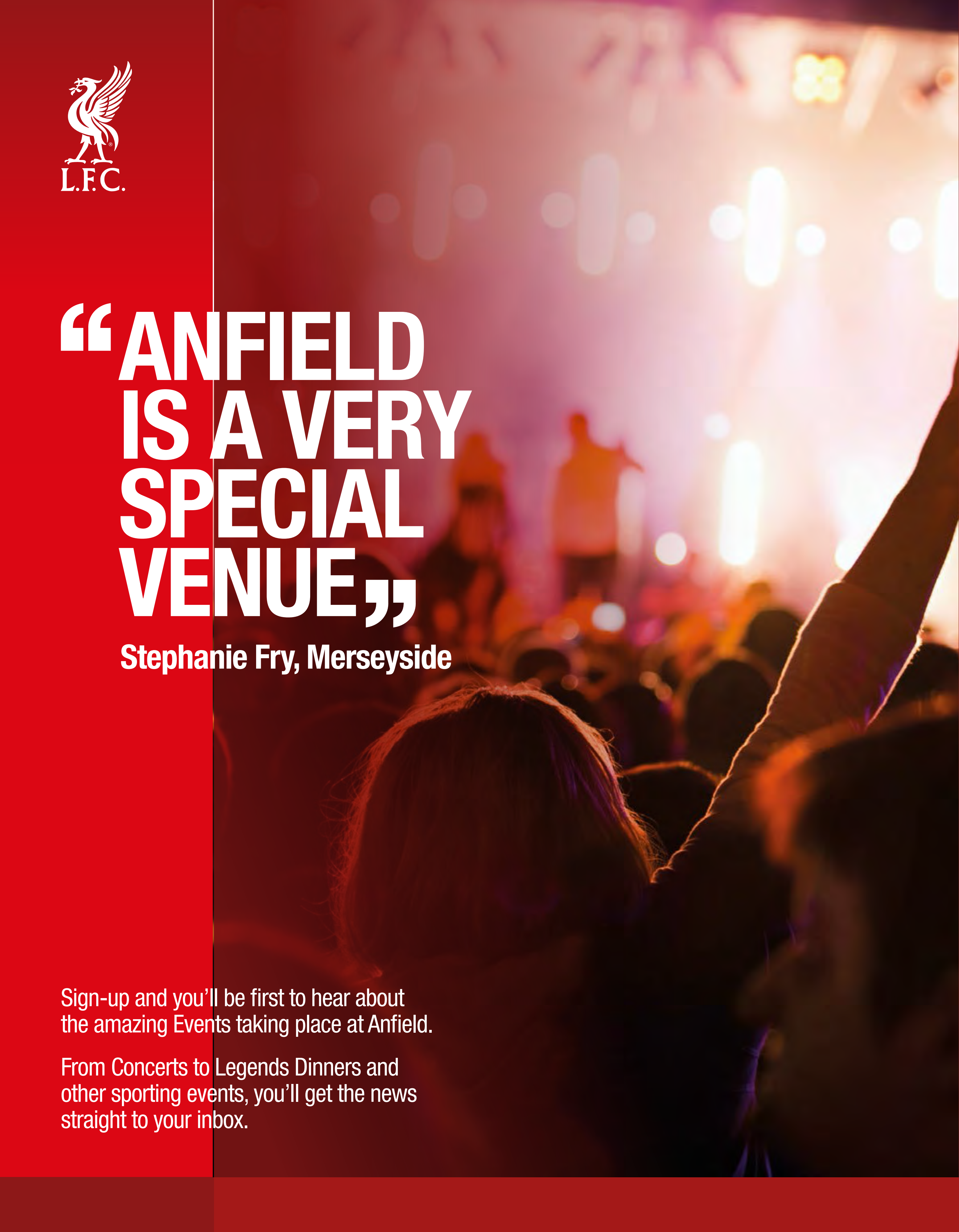
Liverpool were so trophied-up by 1983 that defender Phil Thompson had to defend their dominance in his *Shoot!* column. "We're setting new standards and it's up to other clubs to come up to them… If Liverpool have a secret it's keeping the game simple and free from complicated tactics.

"The emphasis is on perfect passing, positioning and non-stop effort. Proof that fans like our style is that the clubs we visit tend to clock up their biggest gates, and we seem to be on the television almost as much as *Dallas*!"

THE BIG KICK-OFF ISSUE!
3rd September, 1983 33p
Shoot!
IPSWICH TEAM GROUP
STAR WRITERS
BRYAN ROBSON
GARY SHAW
JIMMY GREAVES
SHOOT's sensational signings
KENNY DALGLISH
CHARLIE NICHOLAS
New-look Focus on
KEVIN KEEGAN
ALEX FERGUSON
DEREK STATHAM
PETER WITHE
REMI MOSES
NEWS OF TWO GREAT FREE GIFTS
A SUPERB PIONEER PORTABLE STEREO SYSTEM TO BE WON







Sign up now at
liverpoolfc.com/lfcevents

WE ARE LIVERPOOL.
THIS MEANS MORE.


YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE
LIVERPOOL
FOOTBALL CLUB
EST·1892
"LISTENING TO YNWA BEFORE KICK-OFF – YOU DON'T GET USED TO IT"
Jordan Henderson
WATCH NOW
liverpoolfc.com/TMM
WE ARE LIVERPOOL.
THIS MEANS MORE.





FOCUS ON THE MILK CUP HOT-SHOTS

ADRIAN HEATH — EVERTON

RONNIE WHELAN — LIVERPOOL

How many times have you played at Wembley?

HEATH: I've never played there before.

WHELAN: I've played at Wembley three times. In the Milk Cup Finals against Spurs in 1982 and last season against Manchester United. My other appearance was against Spurs in the 1982 Charity Shield. I've been on the winning side every time so far.

How many medals have you won?

Obviously I won quite a few as a schoolboy before I joined my first club, Stoke, but my only professional medal was for winning the UEFA Under-21 Championship with England against West Germany in October, 1982.

I've got two League Championship medals, two Milk Cup winners' medals, was once a winner in the Charity Shield and have also won three Central League medals.

Do you suffer from nerves before the big match?

From the moment I put on my suit to leave for the ground until I'm changed into my kit I suffer from nerves. I'm generally OK until I watch the TV previews and I won't settle down again until about 45 minutes before kick-off.

Yes. I'm nervous before any match, but am particularly bad before a big game like Sunday's Final. There's nothing you can do about it, but as soon as I get out there and have my first kick of the ball I'll be all right.

What will be your pre-match routine?

The usual. I'll have a big dinner on Friday and then an early night. Get up about 10.30 and all I'll have to eat then will be two slices of toast and a couple of cups of tea.

I'll have a lie-in until 11.00 then lounge around until our pre-match meal at 12.00, when I'll just have a steak. Then we'll get on the coach to leave in plenty of time for Wembley, inspect the pitch and then have our team talk from Joe Fagan.

Will you have friends and relations in the Wembley crowd?

In all, I reckon there will be about 30 of my mates and members of my family coming down for the Final.

Quite a few of my family are coming over from Ireland and my wife Elaine and my in-laws will also be there. I know Elaine will have divided loyalties, because she used to work in the office at Goodison Park. She'll be supporting Liverpool on Sunday, although I'm sure her dad will still be wearing his blue scarf.

What is your outstanding Wembley memory?

I saw a few England schoolboy games as a kid, but my outstanding memory was the replay of the 1981 F.A. Cup Final when Spurs beat Manchester City 3-2. Everton had given me permission to go to Wembley to cheer on my good friend Garth Crooks and I'll never forget the atmosphere. The support both teams received was tremendous. I was particularly impressed by the City fans, because even though their team had been beaten they kept cheering. Being part of that crowd made me appreciate what a fantastic thrill it must be to actually play in a Wembley Cup Final.

My outstanding memory is walking out of the tunnel for the first time against Spurs in the 1982 Milk Cup Final. The noise just hits you and it's quite a frightening experience. I've also scored a few times at Wembley and hope to keep that run going on Sunday.

Who has been your team's outstanding Milk Cup performer this season?

Peter Reid has been tremendous since coming into the team just before Christmas and Kevin Sheedy has also been fantastic.

I haven't a clue. It's not possible to single out individuals.

How will you celebrate if you win on Sunday?

I don't know yet. Because most of us have never played at Wembley. We want to make it a big family occasion for our wives and girlfriends, so we won't be splitting up and going to the PFA Awards at the Cafe Royal on Sunday evening. We'll organise some sort of get-together and I dare say we'll have a drink or two!

We won't go overboard because we've got a rearranged League match at home to Norwich on the following Wednesday. We'll probably just have a quick drink and a bite to eat and then head back for Liverpool. I'd like to be at the Cafe Royal, but it won't be possible.

Do you follow pre-match superstitions?

I always like to be the last player out on to the field. If Andy King is also playing we'll have a fight to be last in the line.

Not particularly. I'm not superstitious.

Which was your best Milk Cup goal this season?

The equaliser in our Quarter-Final at Oxford. Time was running out and when Kevin Brock's back-pass came to me I was terrified of losing my balance because the pitch was rock hard. Fortunately, the 'keeper made up my mind for me by flying out of his goal, so I had no choice other than to push the ball round him and hit it into the empty net.

Probably my second against Walsall in the first-leg of our Semi-Final at Anfield. Craig Johnston whacked it across, the 'keeper couldn't hold it and I headed in the rebound. It was quite an important goal, because Walsall came back for a 2-2 draw and if they had gone into the return leg with a lead it could have been very difficult for us.

The *Shoot!* issue for late March 1984 was a Milk Cup special, as Reds and Blues prepared for the first all-Merseyside major cup final in football history. Columnist Jimmy Greaves called it right: "The Anfield Assassins have an edge in nearly all departments and it will be a case of Liverpool winning again, the cream coming to the top in the Milk Cup for the fourth successive year, an astonishing record of consistency." It did take a Maine Road replay, though.

EVERTON — LIVERPOOL

MERSEY MANIA HITS WEMBLEY

IT'S GOING TO BE ACTION ALL THE WAY

ALAN IRVINE v ALAN KENNEDY
Can Liverpool's attacking left-back stop the flying Scotsman on Everton's right wing?

GRAEME SHARP v MARK LAWRENSON
The Everton striker will have his work cut out to get the better of one of the finest players in the game.

PETER REID v SAMMY LEE
The midfield battle of these aggressive ball-winners could be the key to victory at

KEVIN SHEED
v CRAIG JOHNSTON
Sheedy brings touch of cultur to Everton's le while Johnsto can be an explosive match-winner.

DEREK MOUNTFIELD v KENNY DALGLISH
Rookie defender Mountfield has the unenviable task of stopping King Kenny.

SEMI-FINALS COLOUR SPECIAL

21st April, 1984 33p

Shoot!

IT'S OURS!

F.A. CUP FINAL TICKETS TO BE WON!

LEICESTER CITY TEAM GROUP

Alan Hansen, Kenny Dalglish and Graeme Souness celebrate Liverpool's Milk Cup victory. A colour sequence of Graeme's winner is shown inside.

CRUNCH! NEWCASTLE v SHEFF. WED.

GARY SHAW'S SECRET FEAR



GOAL THAT KOPPED THE CUP!

A memorable Milk Cup Final was fittingly settled by a memorable goal from Liverpool's brilliant skipper Graeme Souness. Turning away from Everton's Kevin Ratcliffe in the 22nd minute of the Final replay at Maine Road, Souness lashed home an unstoppable first-time shot from 20 yards. Craig Johnston, Phil Neal, Sammy Lee and Kenny Dalglish all joined in the celebrations.

22

7th April, 1984 33p

Shoot!

'TITLE FIGHT': CELTIC v ABERD

JIMMY GREAVES PICKS HIS ENGLAND TEAM

Lee to fill Keegan's Newcastle boots?

OLOUR: 'THE KILLERS' Norman Whiteside + Ian Stewart

'INTERNATIONAL' SPURS Birmingham team

Australia — 70c; New Zealand 65c; Malaysia — $2.25; Italy — L2,200; Denmark — Kr.9.85.





How many of those 346 goals did Ian Rush score with his head? We'll get back to you on that one in the next paragraph. In the meantime here's the goal machine in a May 1984 edition of *Shoot!* explaining how it's done, in association with Robinson's Barley Water who sponsored the Young Player of the Month and Year awards.

We'll come clean – it'll take a few hours on YouTube etc to tot up those Rushie headers, but here's what future team-mate John Barnes told *The Guardian* in 2008: "People have this misconception that he was weak in the air but he wasn't really. He scored some powerful headers – he wasn't nicknamed 'Tosh' after John Toshack as some kind of ironic joke – but they weren't his bread-and-butter goals.

"Of the 346 he scored for Liverpool, a decent proportion were scored with his head, but because of his height people used to assume he would score more. But Liverpool did not play to his aerial strength all that often and instead exploited his intelligent positioning, speed, power and touch."

Below far-left, Sammy Lee was touted as a potential replacement for Kevin Keegan at Newcastle United in April 1984. As it happened Sammy stayed at Anfield for two more years before joining Queens Park Rangers, then moving to Osasuna in northern Spain.

MENT

S from crown paints
OL F.C. Souvenirs

A Custom designed anorak/waistcoat with detachable (zippered) sleeves, made from cotton/polyester in burgundy with embroidered team badge.
Sizes: S (26"-30") M (32"-36") L (38"-42")
£19.99 inc p & p.

B Lightweight summer jacket made from cotton/polyester available in red and yellow with embroidered team badge.
Sizes: S (26"-30") M (32"-36") L (38"-42")
£17.99 inc p & p.

C Autographed T-Shirt in yellow or white with L.F.C. 1st Team signatures and team badge.
Sizes: S (26"-30") M (32"-36") L (38"-42")
£3.50 inc p & p.

D Set of 5 table/drip mats printed with team badge.
£0.99p inc p & p.

E Newly designed souvenir medallion of the team badge in 18ct hard gold plated with 18ct gold plated chain.
£3.50 inc p & p.

F Sheaffer refillable ball pen in red with printed team badge.
£1.25 inc p & p.

G Souvenir enamelled badge. £0.99p inc p & p.

PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES OR POSTAL ORDERS PAYABLE TO:- CABLESTAR LIMITED

FREE AUTOGRAPHED SOUVENIR BROCHURE WITH EVERY ORDER

PLEASE SEND YOUR ORDER TO:-
CABLESTAR LIMITED, 12 Lambton Road,
Raynes Park, London S.W.20 0LR

i) PLEASE ALLOW 28 DAYS FOR DELIVERY.
ii) PRICES INC P & P APPLY ONLY TO U.K. ORDERS. FOR OVERSEAS ORDERS PLEASE ADD £1.00 EXTRA POSTAGE.
iii) ONLY CHEQUES & POSTAL ORDERS IN STERLING WILL BE ACCEPTED.
iv) PLEASE ENSURE YOU STATE COLOUR AND SIZE WHERE APPLICABLE.

CUP COLOUR ABERDEEN-EVERTON

YOUR England team

9th June, 1984 33p

Shoot!

Liverpool skipper Graeme Souness proudly shows off the magnificent new Canon League Championship trophy.

LIVERPOOL'S TITLE-AGAIN

Football League Results for '83-'84

STRACHAN'S CHILLING WARNING

Australia — 70c; New Zealand 65c; Malaysia — $2.25; Italy — L2,200; Denmark — Kr.9.85.

BIG GAME BONANZA

LIVERPOOL TO BEAT ROMA

-TREVOR FRANCIS

2nd June, 1984 33p

Shoot!

SCOTLAND v ENGLAND

SOCCER'S LONGEST RUNNING SAGA

ARCHIBALD BATTLE

IAN RUSH DOESN'T SCARE US

-'EMPEROR' FALCAO

FOCUS ON SAINTS' DAVID ARMSTRONG

Arrivederci Roma

Liverpool set for their fourth European Crown

LIVERPOOL are just one game away from becoming second only to Real Madrid in European Cup folklore. Joe Fagan's lads must overcome the might of Roma on their own ground to win the biggest club prize for the fourth time. A glance at their fantastic away form en route to their fourth Final shows why Roma are preparing for a game to remember.

Tommy Smith heads the second goal against Moenchengladbach in the 1977 Final and (right) Kenny Dalglish cleverly clips home the winner against FC Bruges in 1978.

Alan Kennedy darts behind the goal to celebrate with the fans after belting home the winner in the 1981 Final against Real Madrid.

FIRST ROUND

...erpool began their astonishing run of away ...ns by beating Odense BK 1-0 in Denmark. ...en hammered the gallant Danes 5-0 at ...field. Here we see Michael Robinson in the ...ocess of scoring his second goal of the night. ...nny Dalglish, who scored the winner in ...nmark, collected another two in the ...ond-leg at Anfield.

SECOND ROUND

Athletic Bilbao, who went on to win the Spanish League and Cup, held Liverpool to a 0-0 draw at Anfield, despite this type of action from Dalglish. But an Ian Rush goal in Spain earned Fagan's Furies a superb 1-0 win.

QUARTER-FINAL

Phil Neal blasts a shot againt Benfica at Anfield, but it was the inimitable Rush who cracked the skilful Lisbon side. Liverpool really took the eventual Champions of Portugal apart in front of their own fans, winning 4-1.

SEMI-FINAL

The crudity of Dinamo Bucharest's football earned them nothing but criticism. But even thug tactics failed to halt Liverpool's march. Sammy Lee (right) headed the only goal of the first-leg at Anfield. But it was Ian Rush (above right) who wrecked the Rumanians with another two stunning goals out in Bucharest. Nothing, it seems, can stop the mercurial Welshman from scoring, not even kickers.

THE PICK OF THE ACTION AS LIVERPOOL BEAT ASMA ON PENALTIES IN THE EUROPEAN CUP FI...

Ronnie Whelan goes up with Roma 'keeper Tancredi in search of Craig Johnston's looping cross...

Tancredi misses his catch and suddenly the ball is loose...

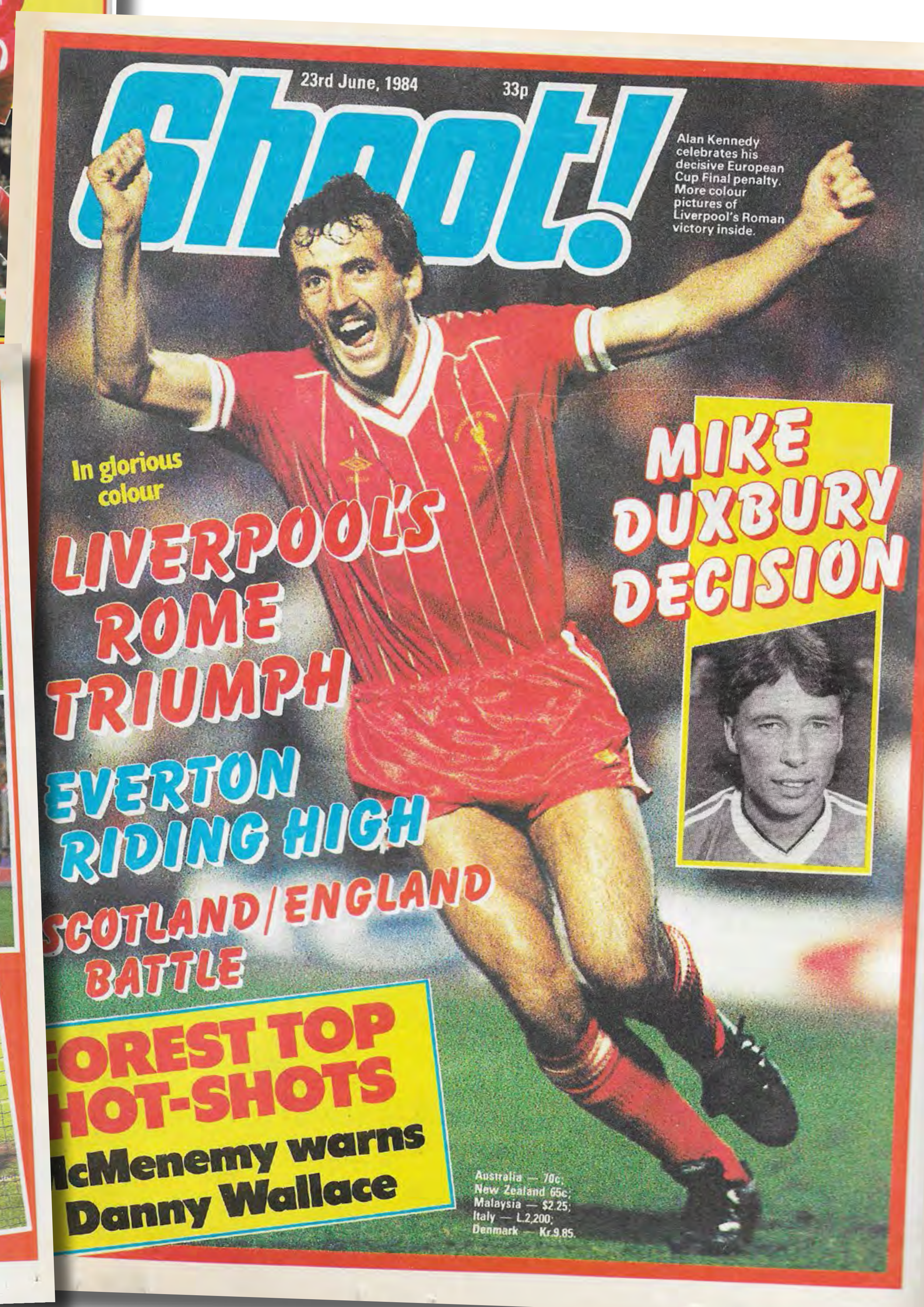
REDS We salute you!

It's a goal! Ian Rush and Ronnie Whelan celebrate with goalscorer Neal.

Ian Rush, Craig Johnston and Sammy Lee get to grips with the Champions Cup (left). Liverpool skipper Graeme Souness moves in to shut out dangerman Graziani (right).

In May 1984 the Reds were Rome-bound on a mission to win their fourth European Cup in seven years. They'd have to do it in the lion's den – against AS Roma in the Stadio Olimpico.

Shoot! spoke to the hosts' Brazilian ace Falcao who admitted: "Maybe Liverpool are one of the very few sides capable of coming to Rome and beating us." Meanwhile columnist Trevor Francis, then playing for Sampdoria in Serie A, had prepared his own 'dossier' for Liverpool boss Joe Fagan and proclaimed: "England's champions face a daunting task but the seething cauldron of Rome won't bother them. The tougher the game, the better they seem to play."

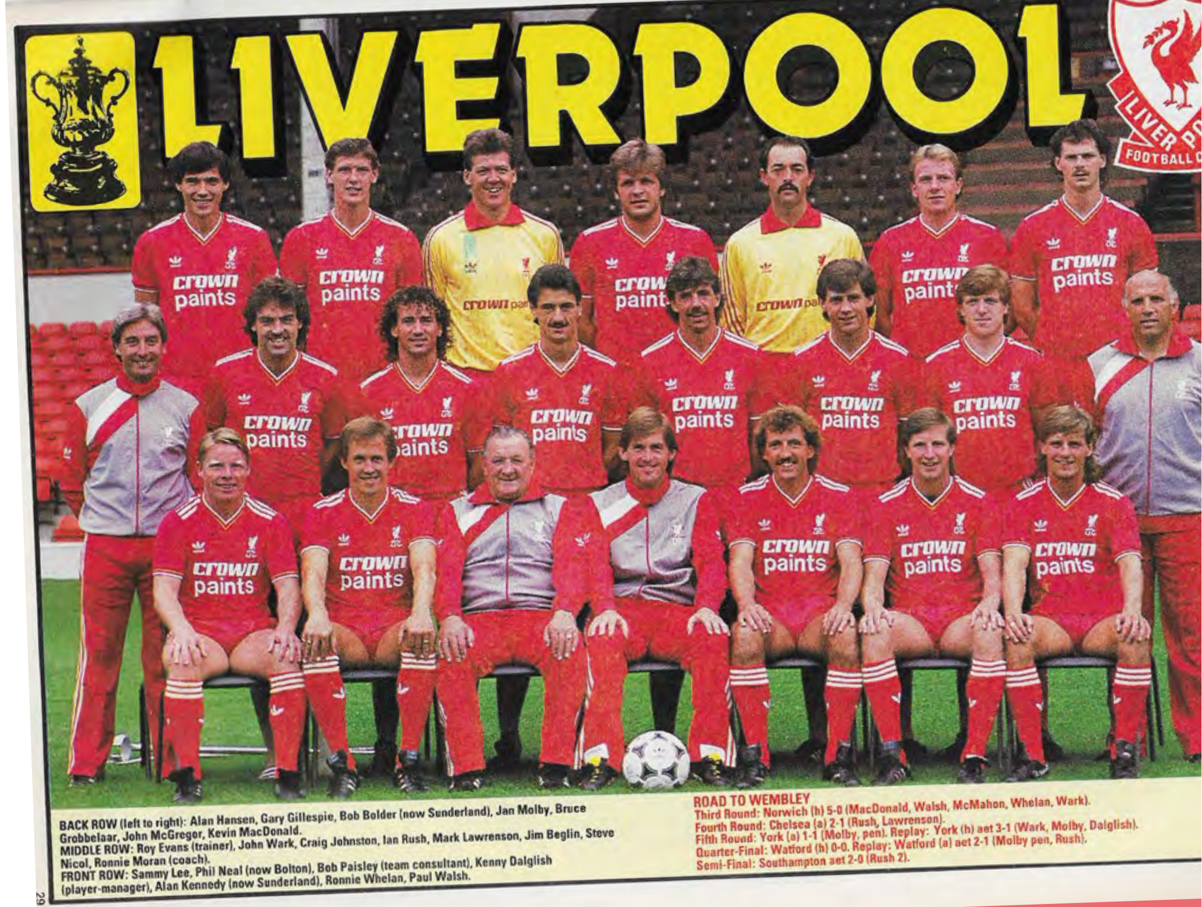


'Don't Ignore Red-hot Craig' it reads on the *Shoot!* cover in February 1986, and you'll never guess who said it and why. It was columnist and Manchester United star Bryan Robson, hoping namesake and England boss Bobby Robson would pick Liverpool's Aussie midfielder for his 1986 World Cup squad.

"Craig's British passport entitles him to play for any of the four Home Countries, a situation that has not escaped the notice of Alex Ferguson [then Scotland boss], Mike England [Wales] and Billy Bingham [Northern Ireland].

"I admire his total involvement in Liverpool's pattern, defending like a tiger, springing passes forward and moving swiftly into the box for a crack at goal. He is every bit as good as the other players I've heard tipped for Mexico."

Top-right is Paul Walsh in November 1986, aiming to win back a regular place after wretched luck with injuries. He was still at Anfield for the first half of the 1987/88 season before joining Tottenham.




LIVERPOOL
TEAM GROUP
Shoot!
MAGAZINE
45p
27th August, 1988
88·89 Kicks off with a WINNER
FREE INSIDE
LEAGUE LADDERS
& team tabs
STOP
KENNY'S KILLJOYS
COTTEE signs for us
GAZZA
ROBSON
HODGE
STEVENS
FREE
2nd Division TEAM TABS
ARSENAL
TEAM GROUP
Shoot!
45p
3rd September, 1988
RUSH TELLS ALL
GAZZA goes home
Can Celtic do it again?
LIVERPOOL
BACK ROW (left to right): Jan Molby, Gary Gillespie, Mike Hooper, Bruce Grobbelaar, Alec Watson, Kevin MacDonald.
MIDDLE ROW: Ronnie Moran (chief coach), Ray Houghton, Nigel Spackman, Jim Beglin, Gary Ablett, John Aldridge, Barry Venison, Roy Evans (first team coach).
FRONT ROW: John Barnes, Steve Nicol, Alan Hansen, Kenny Dalglish (manager), Ronnie Whelan, Steve McMahon, Peter Beardsley.
Shoot! MAGAZINE
LIVERPOOL FOOTBALL CLUB
BARCLAYS

IAN RUSH The REAL story behind the transfer of the decade

NO REGRETS

If you were shocked when you first heard of my return to Liverpool then let me tell you: That makes two of us!

The transfer went through so quickly that I had to catch my breath a few times and remind myself that it really was happening.

I first heard that Liverpool wanted to re-sign me five days before the deal went through. I received a phone call in Turin from my friend and advisor Paul Dean, who told me that a deal could be possible if I was interested.

Then after a couple of wheeler-dealing days I spoke to Liverpool on the Tuesday before travelling to England on Thursday morning to complete the formalities. After a medical Liverpool contacted the media to tell them there would be a Press Conference at the club, at which Liverpool would announce a new signing.

The Press lads turned up fully expecting the new player to be Gary Pallister of Middlesbrough, in the light of Alan Hansen's knee injury. You should have seen their faces when I walked into the room.



John Aldridge showed top form against Wimbledon in the Charity Shield (left).

Happiness

It didn't take me long to make up my mind to return to Anfield. I'll be losing a lot of money, but there are more important things in life than your bank balance. Happiness, for one, and both Juventus and I realised that I didn't settle as well in Turin as we both would have liked.

And from a football point of view I have rejoined the best club in Europe. Even the Italians admit that Liverpool's ban from the European Cup devalues the competition.

I am grateful to Juventus for allowing me to return to England two years before my contract expired. Despite what you may have read and heard I owe them a great deal, and if any British player was contemplating a move abroad I would advise them to sign for Juventus.

Certainly their relationship with Liverpool is now very close, just three years after the Heysel tragedy. Close enough, in fact, for all the transfer negotiations for my return to be conducted over the phone.

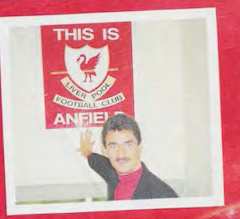
They were great to me and my wife Tracey. They went out of their way to look after us during a relatively unsuccessful period for the club. I can't help wondering what life would be like at Juve after winning the Italian Championship.

And I have no regrets about joining them in the first place. I had won everything at Liverpool and there was a possibility of me going stale. Yet going to Juventus made me realise just how much I missed Anfield, and I will appreciate it all the more now I'm back.

I know I would have kicked myself in ten years time if I hadn't made the move abroad at some stage of my career. I'd hate to think of myself working in a factory or something, moping about how I'd fallen on hard times. I reckon it must be ten times harder for footballers to find jobs in the commercial world once their careers are over, and I intend to offset those difficulties by securing a financial future for my family before then.

I know for a fact that every British player wants to stay in the First Division. But money can sometimes dictate your future.

However, I sense that the exodus might now slow down because there seems to be a lot of cash in the English game right now. The transfer fees paid out by Everton and Tottenham during the summer, for example, are on a par with those abroad, and if they are supplemented by higher wages then footballers might be more prepared to stay.



HOME

I'm glad I sampled football in Italy with Juventus (above) but it's great to be back home.

I've heard stories of bookmakers immediately putting my name above John Aldridge's as the favourite to win the SHOOT/adidas Golden Shoe this season. Their confidence in me is very nice but at the same time I'm taking it with a pinch of salt.

I can honestly say that I'm not even taking a place in Kenny Dalglish's team for granted. Names and reputations have never counted for much at Anfield and I know that if I don't do the business there are others at the club who will.

Now I've got to settle into a new system again and hope that the qualities I possessed during my first spell at Liverpool haven't deserted me. Last season at Juventus I was required to play differently. They wanted me to take on opponents and, although I gave it my best shot, I failed because I am not a Michael Laudrup or a John Barnes.

Peak

I wasn't 100 per cent fit mentally for the games against Charlton and Nottingham Forest at the start of the season, but I'm hoping to be at my peak for the visit of Manchester United on Saturday. It's a game I'm looking forward to immensely for a couple of reasons.

First the atmosphere should be fantastic, something I'm not used to, would you believe, despite Italy's packed stadia and their passionate supporters. In Italy the supporters are so far away from the pitch that the atmosphere is often lost.

Secondly, I have never scored against United and I must admit that rankles a bit. I would love to mark my return by finally breaking that 'hoodoo'.

Ian Rush

So to the last days of LFC ascendancy prior to the formation of the Premier League. Top-left, player-boss Kenny on the cover for the start of 1988/89 as the *Shoot!* editorial proclaims: "Isn't it getting just a little too predictable?" Liverpool duly lifted their 18th league title. Right, it's Ray Houghton and Mark Walters and the coverline 'Is it the end for the Reds?' No, just a wee break in title-winning proceedings. Give the rest a chance to catch up, like.





Liverpool: Can anyone stop them?



OUR MICHAEL IN MADRID

Michael Robinson could probably have walked through the streets of Liverpool unrecognised, yet in Spain his autograph was more highly sought-after than that of Seve Ballesteros. This is our tribute to a man who went from unlikely LFC treble-winner to unlikely face of Spanish football

Words: Chris McLoughlin

On 28 April 2020, the day after Michael Robison lost his battle against cancer at the age of 61, Liverpool goalkeeper Adrian tweeted a tribute. "I grew up watching his shows on Spanish TV. An LFC legend, and very loved in my country. So sad...RIP."

A little over six weeks earlier Robinson had been inside Anfield, working as a broadcaster, for the Champions League clash against Atletico Madrid. It turned out to be his final visit to his favourite place.

"Anfield has always been special to me," he'd written, three months earlier, in the matchday programme for Liverpool versus Brighton & Hove Albion in November 2019 – exactly 56 years since his first visit to Anfield.

"All football stadiums are made of concrete, but when Anfield is full of people it's made of soul. I've never been to a stadium like quite like it – it's the most wonderful place on earth."

Born in 1958 and brought up in Blackpool, where his parents ran a guesthouse, Michael Robinson was a boyhood Red. He first stood on the Kop to watch Bill Shankly's Liverpool beat Burnley 2-0 in 1963.

"I used to love going to watch Liverpool in the 1960s," he recalled. "My dad and I would always stand in the same spot on the Kop about 20 rows up, to the left of Tommy Lawrence's goal. More often than not I used to end up on somebody's shoulders."

He forged a career in football as a centre-forward, starting out at Preston North End, spending a season at Manchester City and signing for Brighton in 1980. In the summer of 1983, after the Seagulls had lost the FA Cup final and been relegated, new Liverpool boss Joe Fagan decided he needed to bolster his attacking options so the Reds paid £200,000 to sign the 25-year-old.

"When I went to meet the chairman John Smith he asked me how much I was earning at Brighton. I quickly told him that money wasn't an issue and I'd even pay him £100 a week to allow me to play for Liverpool Football Club."

Indeed, Robinson turned down a better offer from Everton to wear red – but he never truly felt he was good enough to play in the same team as Kenny Dalglish, Graeme Souness and Ian Rush.

He hated wearing the number 10 shirt, as he felt the double-digit numbers made him look heavier than he was, and told *The Athletic*'s Simon Hughes, formerly of this publication, that the badge on the front "was way too bloody heavy for me as well. I was just too bloody emotional – pulling on the shirt was too much."

After failing to score in his opening nine appearances, Robinson – who was nicknamed 'Cat' by his team-mates as he'd go in goal during kick-a-bouts before training sessions – was called into Fagan's office ahead of a European Cup game against Danish side Odense.

"I remember walking down the corridor thinking, 'Well, that's it, I'm not playing'. When I got there Joe said, 'Michael lad, I was making a cup of tea this morning and my wife was reading the *Echo*







and saying I was going to leave you out. And I was worried about that because you're worth your weight in gold. Before I go and talk to the press I want you to see the team I'm going to give them.'

"He handed me a piece of paper with the numbers 1 to 11 blank apart from no10, where it said 'Michael Robinson'. 'That's the team, laddie, you and ten more'. That night I scored twice."

During that meeting Fagan also asked Robinson to remove metal supports from his boots, something he had worn for years due to trouble with fallen arches. "He was lighter and faster," said the Liverpool boss after the 5-0 win. "You could see the difference in his play."

Home and away League Cup goals against Brentford and a hat-trick in an important league win at West Ham followed, before Robinson netted on his Merseyside derby debut in a 3-0 win against the Blues at Anfield. Screened live by ITV, it was one of the first such derbies many people saw live on TV.

"It was fantastic," he told Martin Tyler at full-time. "The atmosphere was marvellous and there was a great reception when the two teams came out. To take part in it was a privilege. It was smashing."

Whenever Michael scored, the beaming smile that crossed his face was one of genuine joy and, although he lost his place in



HE HANDED ME A PIECE OF PAPER WITH THE NUMBERS 1 TO 11 BLANK APART FROM NO10, WHERE IT SAID 'MICHAEL ROBINSON'. 'THAT'S THE TEAM, LADDIE, YOU AND TEN MORE'. THAT NIGHT I SCORED TWICE

the team later on in the season when Fagan switched from a 4-3-3 formation back to 4-4-2, his six goals in 24 league appearances helped the Reds to win the title. It wasn't their only success in 1984.

Michael was an unused substitute as Liverpool beat Everton in a League Cup final replay at Maine Road, but was called into action as a 95th-minute substitute for Dalglish in the European Cup final against AS Roma in Rome. He didn't take a spot-kick in the penalty shoot-out that followed a 1-1 draw but ended the night as a European champion and treble-winner.

However, in December 1984, after 10 further appearances, Robinson was still struggling to make an impact and was sold to QPR for £100,000. He left Liverpool with 13 goals in 52 games.

"I had to live up to greatness and I thought too much about that," he admitted in the 2014 book *Red Machine*. "I just knew that I was never a great enough footballer to become a Liverpool regular."

In January 1987 he moved to Pamplona to play for Osasuna, speaking only self-taught Spanish and unaware that Osasuna translates as 'health' in Basque rather than being the name of a town. After two-and-a-half seasons, and acquiring the nickname 'Robin', he retired at the age of 31 but had settled in Spain – a country he called his "second love."

So the former Republic of Ireland international striker got into broadcasting, a somewhat unlikely job for someone who still wasn't fluent in Spanish. Yet it was the way he spoke the language with an English accent that made him an unlikely TV star.

After attending World Cup Italia 90 and witnessing football followers from all over the world mixing, partying and enjoying themselves, Michael thought the joy of football should be brought to Spanish TV. So every Monday night for 15 years, on Canal+, he fronted a show called *El Dia Despues* (The Day After).

His different style of analysis, and his focus on the emotional and beautiful side of football, changed the face of broadcasting in Spain. The show became an institution.

"*El Dia Despues* was not just a programme, it was almost a concept, a philosophy on life and football," wrote Spanish soccer correspondent Sid Lowe in *The Guardian*. "It wasn't always easy to explain what exactly it was trying to do, but in a way it was also very simple: it was about enjoyment. It was upbeat, positive, fun, lacking cynicism and refusing to sneer. It meant something."

Robinson, who moved to Madrid, ended up writing and directing the show, which became so popular that the Spanish equivalent of



satirical puppet show *Spitting Image* had a rubber remake of him presenting that as well. He was also asked to voice the 'Ugly Sister' in the Spanish version of *Shrek 2*.

Graeme Souness was Robinson's closest friend in the Anfield dressing-room. The pair would meet socially with their wives and remained in touch after their Liverpool careers ended. Speaking on Sky Sports' *The Football Show* following Michael's death, the Scot recalled just how famous his team-mate had become.

"I can remember he phoned me up one Friday afternoon. He used to go for these long Spanish lunches and he was celebrating. He had been out for lunch with Seve Ballesteros. He was walking down the street in Madrid and half-a-dozen people asked him for his autograph and only one asked Seve, so he was rejoicing in that."

After *El Dia Despues* eventually ran its course, Robinson worked on other shows including a sports current-affairs series called *Informe Robinson* and a radio show on called *Acento Robinson*.

In 2017 he received the prestigious Manuel Vazquez Montalban International Journalism Award for his work, but in December 2018 he was diagnosed with advanced melanoma skin cancer. It was incurable.

"For a couple of days I didn't really know what day it was," he admitted. "I thought it was a bad dream and in any case I thought it was minor and I would go to the hospital the following day and I'd be told, 'We've made a mistake, Michael'.

"One day while I was having a beer I told myself that science had





ALL THAT MATTERS NOW IS LIVERPOOL WINNING HERE IN MY ADOPTED CITY OF MADRID – IT WOULD BE ABSOLUTELY GLORIOUS

spoken and I had a bad advanced cancer and the cancer had dictated a series of circumstances. I now have to decide how to live. I have that power. I wouldn't want my children and my wife to say there was a Michael before the illness and a Michael after."

So he continued to live by doing what he lived for – watching and talking about football.

Seven months after his diagnosis, Liverpool FC came to him. Jürgen Klopp's side travelled to Madrid to play Spurs in the Champions League final. He wasn't going to miss it for the world but admitted to Simon Hughes, after they bumped into each other inside the Wanda Metropolitano before kick-off, that his days were numbered.

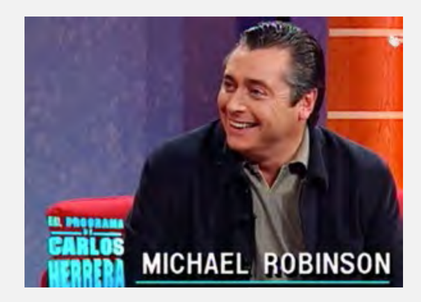
"We've stopped [treatment] now, there's nothing more they can do. I'm dying. I'm okay with it. I've had a good time. All that matters now is Liverpool winning here in my adopted city. It would be glorious. Absolutely f*****g glorious."

Michael Robinson passed away on 27 April 2020 at the age of 61. Among those to pay tribute to him were FC Barcelona, Luis Garcia, Sergio Ramos, Iker Casillas and tennis legend Rafa Nadal. But the final word should go to the man himself and something this unlikely Spanish TV legend said when reflecting upon what Liverpool Football Club meant to him.

"I am not religious, but Anfield was my cathedral. I was a devotee to something and it was a red shirt."

Michael Robinson. *Descansa en paz*. Rest in peace.





"The voice of Spanish football"

Writer Carl Clemente, who became good friends with Robinson over the years, was "deeply saddened to hear about the passing of Michael."

He continues: "It was only a couple of months prior that I worked with him on a piece for the Liverpool v Brighton programme. In our chat he sounded in good spirits, was still working as a commentator and was looking forward to witnessing his beloved Liverpool being crowned Premier League champions.

"Despite not having higher educational studies, he was a great intellect. He told me once that during his playing days, while the rest of his team-mates were playing cards at the hotel he'd be reading books and the broadsheet newspapers. The post-match interviews he conducted showed how articulate he was. He didn't seem to come across as a 'footballer'. These qualities stood him in good stead for his career in the media.

"Michael was the face and voice of Spanish football, commentating and analysing La Liga matches with his distinctive accent, known across the peninsula as *Acento Robinson* – also the name of one of his shows. To reach such a level in your chosen field in your second language, like Michael did, is even more impressive. He taught himself Spanish without attending a single lesson and not knowing a word before joining Osasuna in 1987.

"Michael loved people, was quite emotional at times and had the ability to pick up on the feelings of others. He was always a great listener as well as a speaker; an interesting, knowledgeable, warm and kind individual, who possessed such an abundance of enthusiasm towards sport and life in general.

"Rest in peace and you'll never walk alone, my old chap, as Michael would say."





WIN MINI MO AND FOUR MORE LFC PLAYERS

If you've been missing the real things just recently, here's a chance to own your very own miniature versions of Mo Salah, Sadio Mane, Trent Alexander-Arnold, Joe Gomez and Fabinho!

These single-figure, blister-pack collectables are official Liverpool Football Club merchandise and we've got one bundle of five to give away courtesy of our friends at SoccerStarz, the smash-hit pocket-sized football figures from Creative Toys Company.

These highly sought-after, two-inch handmade miniature Reds are fully licensed and endorsed by LFC. You can find out more at www.soccerstarz.com.

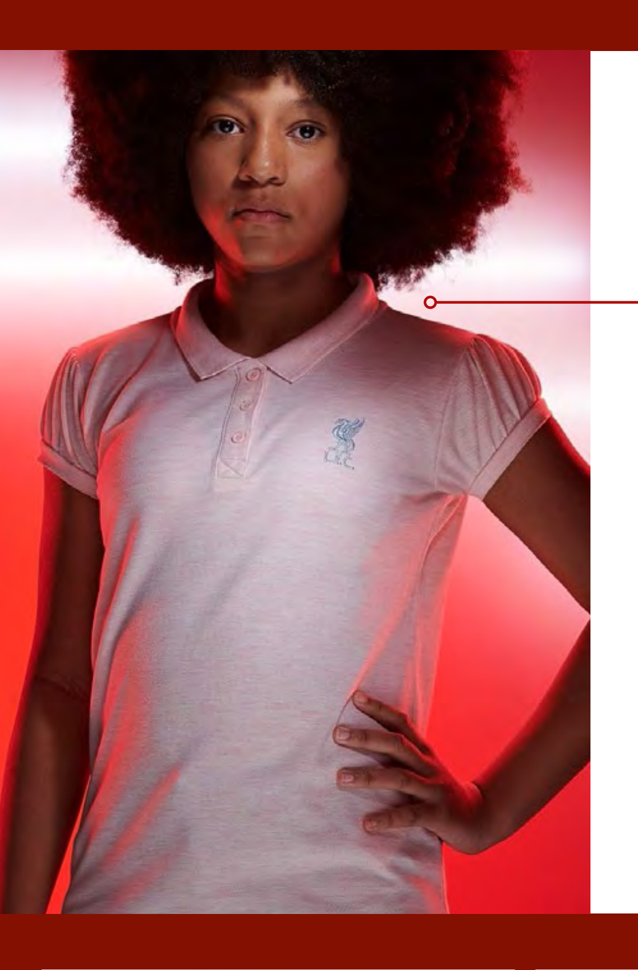
The competition is for UK residents only. To be in with a chance of winning, just answer the following question and email your entry, along with your name and address, to liverpoolfcmag@reachsport.com with SOCCERSTARZ COMPETITION in the title bar. Closing date for entries: Friday 3 July 2020.

Which birthday does Mo celebrate on 15 June 2020?

(a) 27th (b) 28th (c) 29th



WHAT'S IN



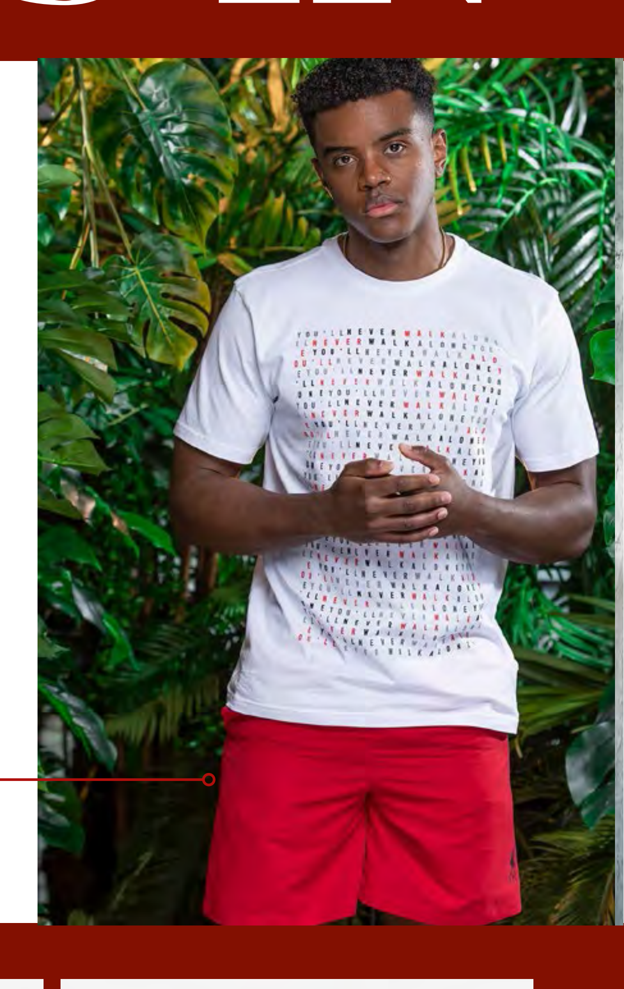
JUNIOR PINK LIVERBIRD POLO

£15



MENS RED BOARD SHORT

£30





JUNIOR HELLO KITTY GIRLS RULE TEE
£15

JUNIOR NAVY BOARD SHORT
£15



JUNIOR STRIPED NAVY POCKET TEE
£15

STORE

SUMMER ESSENTIALS
EXCLUSIVE TO LFC

ON SALE NOW



WOMENS WALK ON RED MARL TEE

£20



WOMENS LIVERBIRD RED MARL TEE

£20



MENS BLACK COLOUR BLOCK POCKET POLO

£25



MENS RED CREST TEE

£20

Shop for all your Liverpool FC essentials in Official Club Stores and at liverpoolfc.com/store and for more details follow @LFCRetail on Twitter and Instagram!

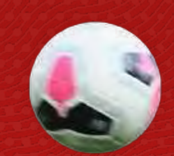


2019/20 Fixtures & Results

AUGUST		SCORE/KO	TV	SCORERS
Sun 04	Manchester City (CS, N)	1-1*	BT	Matip (pens: Shaqiri, Lallana, Chamberlain, Salah)
Fri 09	**Norwich City (H)**	**4-1**	**Sky**	**Hanley (OG), Salah, Van Dijk, Origi**
Wed 14	Chelsea (Super Cup, N)	2-2**	BT	Mane 2 (pens: Firmino, Fabinho, Origi, A-Arnold, Salah)
Sat 17	Southampton (A)	2-1		Mane, Firmino
Sat 24	**Arsenal (H)**	**3-1**	**Sky**	**Matip, Salah 2 (1 pen)**
Sat 31	Burnley (A)	3-0	Sky	Wood (OG), Mane, Firmino
SEPTEMBER				
Sat 14	**Newcastle United (H)**	**3-1**	**BT**	**Mane 2, Salah**
Tue 17	Napoli (UCL Matchday 1, A)	0-2	BT	
Sun 22	Chelsea (A)	2-1	Sky	Alexander-Arnold, Firmino
Wed 25	MK Dons (Carabao Cup 3, A)	2-0	Sky	Milner, Hoever
Sat 28	Sheffield United (A)	1-0	BT	Wijnaldum
OCTOBER				
Wed 02	Salzburg (UCL Matchday 2, H)	4-3	BT	Mane, Robertson, Salah 2
Sat 05	**Leicester City (H)**	**2-1**		**Mane, Milner (pen)**
Sun 20	Manchester United (A)	1-1	Sky	Lallana
Wed 23	Genk (UCL Matchday 3, A)	4-1	BT	Oxlade-Chamberlain 2, Mane, Salah
Sun 27	**Tottenham Hotspur (H)**	**2-1**	**Sky**	**Henderson, Salah (pen)**
Wed 30	Arsenal (Carabao Cup 4, H)	5-5**	Sky	Mustafi (OG), Milner (pen), Oxlade-Chamberlain, Origi 2 (pens: Milner, Lallana, Brewster, Origi, Jones)
NOVEMBER				
Sat 02	Aston Villa (A)	2-1		Robertson, Mane
Tue 05	Genk (UCL Matchday 4, H)	2-1	BT	Wijnaldum, Oxlade-Chamberlain
Sun 10	**Manchester City (H)**	**3-1**	**Sky**	**Fabinho, Salah, Mane**
Sat 23	Crystal Palace (A)	2-1		Mane, Firmino
Wed 27	Napoli (UCL Matchday 5, H)	1-1	BT	Lovren
Sat 30	**Brighton (H)**	**2-1**		**Van Dijk 2**
DECEMBER				
Wed 04	**Everton (H)**	**5-2**	**AP**	**Origi 2, Shaqiri, Mane, Wijnaldum**
Sat 07	Bournemouth (A)	3-0		Oxlade-Chamberlain, Keita, Salah
Tue 10	Salzburg (UCL Matchday 6, A)	2-0	BT	Keita, Mane, Salah
Sat 14	**Watford (H)**	**2-0**	**BT**	**Salah 2**
Tue 17	Aston Villa (Carabao Cup QF, A)	0-5	Sky	
Wed 18	Monterrey (CWC SF)	2-1	BBC	Keita, Firmino
Sat 21	Flamengo (CWF final)	1-0^	BBC	Firmino
Thu 26	Leicester City (A)	4-0	AP	Firmino 2, Milner (pen), Alexander-Arnold
Sun 29	**Wolverhampton W (H)**	**1-0**	**Sky**	**Mane**
JANUARY				
Thu 02	**Sheffield United (H)**	**2-0**	**BT**	**Salah, Mane**
Sun 05	Everton (FA Cup 3, H)	1-0	BBC	Jones
Sat 11	Tottenham Hotspur (A)	1-0	Sky	Firmino
Sun 19	**Manchester United (H)**	**2-0**	**Sky**	**Van Dijk, Salah**
Thu 23	Wolverhampton W (A)	2-1	BT	Henderson, Firmino
Sun 26	Shrewsbury Town (FA Cup 4, A)	2-2	BBC	Jones, Love (OG)
Wed 29	West Ham United (A)	2-0		Salah (pen), Oxlade-Chamberlain
FEBRUARY				
Sat 01	**Southampton (H)**	**4-0**		**Oxlade-Chamberlain, Henderson, Salah 2**
Tue 04	Shrewsbury Town (FA Cup 4Rep, H)	1-0		Williams (OG)
Sat 15	Norwich City (A)	1-0	Sky	Mane
Tue 18	Atletico Madrid (UCL R of 16 1)	0-1	BT	
Mon 24	**West Ham United (H)**	**3-2**	**Sky**	**Wijnaldum, Salah, Mane**
Sat 29	Watford (A)	0-3	Sky	
MARCH				
Tue 03	Chelsea (FA Cup 5, A)	0-2	BBC	
Sat 07	**Bournemouth (H)**	**2-1**	**BT**	**Salah, Mane**
Wed 11	Atletico Madrid (UCL R of 16 2)	2-3^	BT	Wijnaldum, Firmino
JUNE				
Sun 21	Everton (A)	7pm	Sky	
Wed 24	**Crystal Palace (H)**	**8.15pm**	**Sky**	
JULY				
Thu 02	Manchester City (A)	8.15pm	Sky	
TBC				
Sat 04	**Aston Villa (H)**	**3pm**		
Wed 08	Brighton (A)	8pm		
Sat 11	**Burnley (H)**	**3pm**		
Wed 15	Arsenal (A)	8pm		
Sat 18	**Chelsea (H)**	**3pm**		
Sun 26	Newcastle United (A)	3pm		

All fixtures subject to change. AP – Amazon Prime *lost 5-4 on pens ** won 5-4 on pens ^after extra-time


The All NEW
LFC Official App




Download on the
App Store


GET IT ON
Google Play



NEIL MELLOR

This Liverpool team needs to be recognised as one of the best sides ever seen in the Premier League

Liverpool's players will have mixed emotions as the 2019/20 Premier League season restarts. Such a lengthy delay during a season is something they have never experienced before.

Most players will have had long-term injuries at some point during their careers, and the uncertainty of not knowing when they will be back playing again, but this is completely different.

Jürgen Klopp's side had put themselves in a position to win the Premier League. For the season to then be paused when they were on the verge of winning the title must have been frustrating.

The job should have been finished, but wasn't finished, so there will also now be elation among the players that they are getting the opportunity to complete the season.

They will have looked at France and Holland, two countries that curtailed their seasons early, and thought that could also happen in England. So they'll be made-up that the Premier League season is finally resuming, but will be hugely disappointed that they can't play in front of Liverpool fans.

As a professional footballer you want to play in front of your own supporters and full houses. The players won't want to play inside an empty Anfield, but they'll also realise that they have to in order to get the job done. What nobody knows is the impact that will have on performances and results.

From my experience of playing reserve-team football, it can be a real battle mentally to get yourself up for a game in an empty stadium.

When you play at a professional level you realise how supporters inside a ground can make a huge difference to a player's confidence – or the lack of it.

The noise the fans create can impact belief and the momentum of games, especially at an atmospheric place like Anfield, and we've seen how not having supporters inside a stadium has affected the Bundesliga.

A lot of teams in Germany have struggled to win at home with Borussia Dortmund's 1-0 home defeat to Bayern Munich absolutely crucial in the title race. During that match, Dortmund's Erling Braut Haaland fired a shot on goal that was deflected around the post by the elbow of Bayern defender Jerome Boateng as he slipped. A corner was awarded and there was no VAR check.

Under normal circumstances, 80,000 Dortmund fans – including their famous 'Yellow Wall' at the end of the Westfalenstadion where the incident occurred – would have demanded a penalty be given, which would also have probably meant a red card for Boateng.

But with Dortmund's players seemingly not spotting the offence and failing to appeal, and no crowd to put pressure on the referee, Bayern got away with a 1-0 win that looks decisive in deciding the title.

It shows how the lack of fans can detract from home advantage, something that could both help and hinder Liverpool in the Premier League.

For instance, going to an empty Goodison Park to play a Merseyside derby gives Liverpool a huge advantage.

Crossing the park as a Liverpool player is one of the most daunting experiences you can have along with going to Old Trafford, but at the same time playing against the Reds at a packed Anfield is also hugely daunting for any visiting team.

The Reds have won a record 22 consecutive top-flight home games, but Crystal Palace, Aston Villa, Burnley and Chelsea will all now come to Anfield with greater belief because they don't have to deal with the atmosphere.

That said, as soon as Sadio Mane or Mo Salah get the opening goal they'll quickly remember what an outstanding team they're up against.

I believe this Liverpool team needs to be recognised as one of the best sides ever seen in the Premier League.

What they have done this season, after going so close last year and having a disrupted pre-season due to international tournaments all over the world, is phenomenal.

The players came back with the mentality to win the league. They had the attitude that 97 points wasn't enough last season, so let's get more.

Whatever happens when Project Restart gets underway, it is right to remember this group of players as producing some incredible football – football all Liverpool fans have enjoyed.

They will be worthy Premier League champions.



• Follow Neil on Twitter @NeilMellor33

FURON

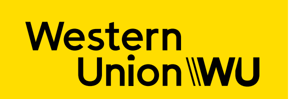


GOAL BOUND

























WE ARE PLEASED TO RECOGNISE THE OFFICIAL PARTNERS OF LIVERPOOL FC

WE ARE LIVERPOOL.
THIS MEANS MORE.